

Pienaar accused in Luyt's outburst

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THE MADNESS
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THE INDEPENDENT

Friday 15 May 1998 45p (IR 50p) No 3,611

A nation descends into anarchy



A man lies before the riot police who shot him during rioting in Jakarta yesterday, top right, he is carried away from the scene. The condition of the victim was not known. Last night fires were still burning across the city centre. Photographs: Achmad Ibrahim/AP



THE FUTURE of President Suharto of Indonesia was in grave doubt last night after mounting popular unrest erupted in riot which devastated large areas of Jakarta and left the capital in a state of near anarchy.

The President was due to fly into Jakarta this morning, after reports in Indonesian newspapers that he will step down if he no longer had the "trust" of his people.

"If I am no longer trusted I will become a sage, and endeavour to get close to God," he was quoted as saying during a state visit to Egypt which was cut short by the escalating disturbances. "I will spend my time guiding my children so they become good people, guide the community and give advice."

President Suharto has in the past made similar statements, and his remarks were down-played by his foreign minister, Ali Alatas. But in the President's absence there appeared to be a vacuum of power in the world's fourth biggest nation, as mobs of looters sacked large areas of the city unchecked by police or army.

Tanks and armoured cars were seen driving through the centre of town last night, and the Jakarta military commander, Major General Syafruddin Syamsudin promised to "face rioters and looters firmly".

Potential successors to the President - including senior generals and opposition figures - made no public statements about the political situation and appeared to be biding their time. "The situation is going to improve," said General Wiranto, the chief of the armed forces. "Please believe in the military."

What began three days ago

as a peaceful student demonstration has transformed itself in the past 48 hours into something that defies easy categorisation - part political protest, part pillage and part ethnic pogrom. Jakarta has been tense since Tuesday night when six students were shot dead by police breaking up a demonstration at a private university. On Wednesday, mobs of ordinary Jakartans rampaged along two

headquarters of the social affairs ministry which is run by the president's daughter, Siti Hardiyati Rukmana.

Shops and businesses closed down in most parts of central Jakarta. The toll road to the airport was closed, stranding many passengers in their hotels, and many outbound flights were filled up with retreating expatriates and ethnic Chinese Indonesians who are often scapegoated in times of unrest.

The Indonesian currency, the rupiah, whose collapse last summer set off economic turmoil throughout the country, fell steeply, further jeopardising the programme of economic reform and recovery agreed between the government and the International Monetary Fund.

By mid-morning yesterday, Gajah Mada Street, a main road linking central Jakarta with Chinatown and the docks to the north was empty of motorists as the looters set to work. Just before noon, a squadron of 30 helmeted troops on motorbikes roared out of the smoke towards the north.

Suddenly, the silhouettes of soldiers became visible firing into the air and taking level aim at people on the streets. Everyone ran for cover, the rounds fired were either blanks or the rubber coated bullets which have claimed several lives this week. But there were confirmed reports of only a handful of deaths

or injuries by the end of the day.

By the afternoon, there was

hardly a pane of glass left unsmashed.

Dozens of cars were

burned out or burning. For miles

there were no police or soldiers

to be seen and in several parts

of the city the red-bereted marines

traditionally the favourites of ordinary people, were seen joining hands with looters.

Individual motivation is difficult to fathom, but even the

most opportunistic of the rioters

explain their actions in political

terms. "It's revenge for what the

military did to the students," said

one man who identified himself

as Danny. "Nepotism and corruption," shouted someone else.

"The Chinese have debts, and

we have to pay them," said another man.

A disproportionate number

of the reported dead have been

Chinese, and if racist sentiment

catches hold among the Muslim

majority then a truly dreadful sit-

uation looms. But the most vici-

ous abuse was reserved for

the President. An 18-year-old

woman, Linda Putri, screwed up

her face and spat out the words,

"I hate Pak [Father] Harjo."

Family nation, page 3

Inside
How Suharto
turned a country
into a family firm
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Leading article
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streets adjoining the campus. Yesterday, after a night in which at least 11 people were burned alive after mobs set their homes alight, the anarchy spread throughout the city.

For miles the streets of Jakarta look like the set of a disaster film. Hundreds of shops, houses, public buildings, police stations, hotels, shopping centres and markets were burned. Among them was a Heineken beer brewery, the home of Liem Sioe Liong, one of Indonesia's richest men and a close friend of President Suharto, and the

silhouettes of soldiers became visible firing into the air and taking level aim at people on the streets. Everyone ran for cover, the rounds fired were either blanks or the rubber coated bullets which have claimed several lives this week. But there were confirmed reports of only a handful of deaths

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time

forming a human chain for Jubilee 2000 at the G8 summit,

as

or following our student teachers in Channel 5's

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Blair takes tougher line in Ulster

By David McKittrick
and Kim Sengupta

TONY BLAIR yesterday signalled a new and more exacting government line on testing the republican movement's commitment to purely democratic means of action in an attempt to boost Protestant support for the Good Friday agreement.

Visiting Belfast in an effort to persuade the large numbers of Unionists who are undecided on how to vote in next Friday's referendum, he promised legislation aimed at ensuring that the IRA's "so-called war is finished, done with, gone".

He listed a range of factors, including the dismantling of paramilitary structures and co-operation on arms decommissioning, which he said the Government would put into legislation. But in a meticulously worded speech he appeared to stop short of specifying what Unionist critics of the accord want - making IRA decommissioning a formal requirement before Sinn Fein can be admitted into a new administration.

In his speech he made only a glancing reference to the early release of prisoners, which has led to much Unionist criticism. This sentiment may be exacer-

bated by the release, on four-day home leave, of the notorious gunman Michael Stone.

Mr Blair said there had to be a clear commitment that violence was over for good, with an end to bombings, killings and beatings and an end to targeting and procurement of weapons.

But in a balancing section of his speech he added: "We are not setting new preconditions or barriers. On the contrary, we want as many people as possible to use the agreement as their bridge across to an exclusively peaceful path."

Mr Blair's increased pressure on republicans found an echo

in Dublin where the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, declared: "People are entitled to an absolute assurance that the conflict is over, that weapons will not be used again by either the parties owning them or allowed to fall into the wrong hands."

Mr Blair's walkabout and talk at the Belfast Balmoral Show was not quite the slick production one expects from new Labour. His speech was broadcast at strategic points outside. But much of it was indistinct and accompanied by neighing of horses and mooing of cattle.

Many of those present, however, waited in the belief that Mr

In brief

Lawrence plea

THE five suspects in the racist murder of Stephen Lawrence are to seek judicial review of a public inquiry's order that they attend the hearing and answer questions. Page 2

Microsoft talks

MICROSOFT was negotiating in Washington yesterday in a bid to fend off a potentially crippling action by the US government. Page 23

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IN TOMORROW'S
5-SECTION
INDEPENDENT



Schools make room for morals

By Judith Judd

■ Graca Machel: My life with Nelson Mandela

■ Simon Calder: In search of the real Japan

TIME OFF

■ Save the Jersey Pink: British plants on the danger list
ISM Magazine

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Recycled paper made up
41.4% of the raw material for
UK newspapers in the first half of 1997.

ing at a different approach for the 45,000 pupils who leave school each year without any qualifications. He also wants the curriculum authority to look again at the guidelines on how under-fives should be taught.

Literacy and numeracy targets for 11-year-olds are the centrepiece of the Government's strategy for raising standards and ministers want nursery children to be well-prepared for reading and maths when they arrive in school reception classes.

The last government promised that there would be no major changes to the curriculum before the year 2000 after a major review undertaken by Sir Ron Dearing three years ago.

However, Mr Blunkett, who is determined that schools will meet literacy and numeracy targets, tore up the primary curriculum earlier this year and announced that primary schools would not have to follow.

He said yesterday: "It is essential that schools be allowed to concentrate on raising standards. They will not be able to achieve this if the review of the curriculum brings with it excessive disruption and upheaval in schools.

"We want to see a national curriculum that allowed teachers the flexibility to address key priorities during a child's school career and ensures a proper place for their preparation for adult life, including education for citizenship."

Suggestions from Government advisory groups examining creative and cultural education may also be incorporated into the timetable.

Mr Blunkett has asked his advisers at the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority to carry out the review. With teachers already under pressure from a series of new Government initiatives, he is anxious to persuade them that he does not want a root-and-branch overhaul of the curriculum.

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2/NEWS



Michael Stone in prison. His crimes included a murderous attack at the funeral of IRA members killed by the SAS

Photograph: Brian Harris

Temporary release for loyalist killer

By David McKittrick
Ireland Correspondent

MICHAEL STONE, released temporarily from prison yesterday, is a one-man loyalist equivalent of the IRA's Balcombe Street gang: a symbol from the heyday of extreme Protestant violence, of killing on a large scale.

The rapturous reception given to the Balcombe Street people at last week's Sinn Fein ard-fheis offended many Protestants and is perceived as a setback for the Yes campaign in next Friday's referendums on the Good Friday agreement.

The sight of Stone may reinforce that feeling, for, while a special Protestant detesta-

tion is reserved for republican prisoners, his appearance will serve as a reminder of one of the sections of the accord which most troubles Unionist voters.

This is the controversial provision that, if all goes well with the agreement, Stone and all other prisoners whose parent paramilitary organisations are on ceasefire can expect release by the middle of the year 2000 at the latest.

He became an icon of loyalist terror because he killed six Catholics, because his extraordinary attack on a republican funeral was photographed and televised, and because it was a near-suicide mission which almost ended in his own death.

The incident took place in Belfast's Milltown cemetery in March 1988 as republicans buried three IRA activists who had been shot dead by the SAS in Gibraltar. While one of the coffins was being lowered into the grave, Stone threw hand grenades at the thousands of mourners.

As the crowds took cover he fired shots from two handguns then jogged towards a motorway several hundred yards away. After the initial confusion was pursued by several hundred republican youths, who had held off with occasional gunfire. Some caught up with him as he reached the motorway and he was beaten unconscious before being rescued by an RUC patrol. When he came

round, his first question was:

"How many of the bastards did I kill?" He had killed three of his pursuers and injured a total of 60 people with his grenades and bullets, including a 10-year-old boy, a grandmother and a pregnant woman.

At his trial he pleaded not guilty but offered no defence,

which meant the prosecution had to present all its evidence, giving maximum publicity to the details of his career. It emerged that he had carried out three earlier killings of Catholics and conspired to murder many more, including Sinn Fein's Martin McGuinness. All this made him a celebrity in the backstreets of the loyalist ghettos.

Gifts and fan-mail were sent to him in the Maze prison, while a regular stream of stories in the Northern Ireland tabloid press kept him in the public eye. It is said locks of his hair have been raffled in loyalist clubs.

His 10 years in jail seem

to have mellowed him somewhat, for, although he lives within walls plastered with the regalia of paramilitarism, he is thought of now as a comparatively moderate. In January this year he was among prisoners who met the Northern Ireland Secretary, Mo Mowlam.

Speaking to journalists at that time, he said: "It's all about dialogue and that's what we've been pushing. We can get through this situation with loyalists, anything's possible."

left thousands of homes without power, and many more without sleep as alarms were set off unpredictably, and resulted in the county's fire-fighters being called out 112 times on Wednesday night – apart from those, we're really having some excellent weather – apart from the flood alert in Somerset, or if you're one of those poor chaps trying to play golf in Oxfordshire, where thunderstorms delayed the start of the Benson & Hedges International.

There's a good deal of fog around, of course, and some smog as ground-level clouds prevent smoke and car-exhaust fumes from escaping into the upper atmosphere, and there are some storms brewing in France that are on their way over here. But the important thing is that Southampton recorded 28.6C on Wednesday, the highest temperature recorded on 13 May.

So for any readers soaking in Dorset, golfing in Oxfordshire, shivering in York, or even colder in Newcastle, the message is clear: just lie back and think of Southampton.

WHAT GLORIOUS weather we're having! Unless, of course, you happen to be in Weymouth, where the basement of the police station was flooded by storms on Wednesday night and prisoners had to be transferred to Dorchester.

As I was saying: What glorious weather we're having! Unless you live in Wareham, where a bolt of lightning struck a chimney pot in South Street and a house in West Street was also hit by lightning.

But apart from the electrical storms in Dorset – which

World weather

Station	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Pressure
Aberdeen	17.6	W 16	80	1016.6
Aberystwyth	22.7	W 22	80	1016.7
Aigburth	15.5	W 15	80	1016.8
Airport	14.5	W 14	80	1016.9
Belfast	13.5	W 13	80	1017.0
Birmingham	15.9	W 15	80	1017.1
Blackpool	14.7	W 14	80	1017.2
Bournemouth	15.7	W 15	80	1017.3
Brighton	15.7	W 15	80	1017.4
Bristol	21.7	W 22	80	1017.5
Cardiff	16.6	W 16	80	1017.6
Carlisle	20.8	W 20	80	1017.7
Chester	16.6	W 16	80	1017.8
Exeter	22.7	W 22	80	1017.9
Glasgow	14.7	W 14	80	1018.0
London	16.6	W 16	80	1018.1
Nottingham	16.6	W 16	80	1018.2
Sheffield	16.6	W 16	80	1018.3
Southampton	16.6	W 16	80	1018.4
Stoke-on-Trent	16.6	W 16	80	1018.5
Swindon	16.6	W 16	80	1018.6
Wales	16.6	W 16	80	1018.7
Warrington	16.6	W 16	80	1018.8
Worcester	16.6	W 16	80	1018.9
Wrexham	16.6	W 16	80	1019.0
Yarmouth	16.6	W 16	80	1019.1
YORKSHIRE	16.6	W 16	80	1019.2
YORKSHIRE	16.6	W 16	80	1019.3
YORKSHIRE	16.6	W 16	80	1019.4
YORKSHIRE	16.6	W 16	80	1019.5
YORKSHIRE	16.6	W 16	80	1019.6
YORKSHIRE	16.6	W 16	80	1019.7
YORKSHIRE	16.6	W 16	80	1019.8
YORKSHIRE	16.6	W 16	80	1019.9
YORKSHIRE	16.6	W 16	80	1019.0
YORKSHIRE	16.6	W 16	80	1019.1
YORKSHIRE	16.6	W 16	80	1019.2
YORKSHIRE	16.6	W 16	80	1019.3
YORKSHIRE	16.6	W 16	80	1019.4
YORKSHIRE	16.6	W 16	80	1019.5
YORKSHIRE	16.6	W 16	80	1019.6
YORKSHIRE	16.6	W 16	80	1019.7
YORKSHIRE	16.6	W 16	80	1019.8
YORKSHIRE	16.6	W 16	80	1019.9
YORKSHIRE	16.6	W 16	80	1019.0
YORKSHIRE	16.6	W 16	80	1019.1
YORKSHIRE	16.6	W 16	80	1019.2
YORKSHIRE	16.6	W 16	80	1019.3
YORKSHIRE	16.6	W 16	80	1019.4
YORKSHIRE	16.6	W 16	80	1019.5
YORKSHIRE	16.6	W 16	80	1019.6
YORKSHIRE	16.6	W 16	80	1019.7
YORKSHIRE	16.6	W 16	80	1019.8
YORKSHIRE	16.6	W 16	80	1019.9
YORKSHIRE	16.6			

did not
lister
inquiry

Cancer drug could save thousands more lives

By Jeremy Lawrence
Health Editor

THE WORLD'S most effective anti-cancer drug has been underprescribed to women with breast cancer because it has been perceived to be too kind to be of any use. Twenty thousand extra lives a year worldwide could be saved if tamoxifen were more widely used.

Results from a global study of 37,000 women treated with the drug, the largest randomised study of any cancer treatment, showed that twice as many lives could be saved if tamoxifen were used twice as widely. If all the women who could benefit from the drug in Britain were prescribed it, an extra 1,000 lives a year in this country would be saved, scientists said yesterday.

Tamoxifen, which blocks the action of the hormone oestrogen, is prescribed to one million women worldwide immediately after surgery for breast cancer but could benefit hundreds of thousands more. Oestrogen can cause any breast cancer cells remaining after surgery or chemotherapy to proliferate.

Britain has led the world in prescribing the drug to post-menopausal women but there is still a belief that it is ineffective in younger, pre-menopausal women, unnecessary in those who have had chemotherapy or in whom the cancer has not spread beyond the breast, and is not needed for more than one to two years rather than the recommended five years.

Professor Richard Peto of Oxford



University said that that view was wrong on all four counts and that clinical practice must change. "Tamoxifen is already saving more lives than any other cancer drug in the world," he

said. In the UK, the drug was already saving 2,000 lives a year. Professor Peto added: "Often you can save more lives by taking seriously what you know than with a new discovery that may

not be relevant for 20, 30 or 40 years."

Tamoxifen was discovered by British scientists 25 years ago but gathering the evidence of its benefits has taken decades. Professor Peto said that

doctors had been slow to accept the drug because it was not toxic like other cancer drugs and they had believed that there was no gain without pain.

The latest findings, published in

The Lancet, involved assembling data from 55 trials in 15 countries. Although the results showed small increases in the risk of endometrial cancer (of the lining of the womb)

Self-examination (left), helps women detect lumps and catch malignancies early; research has shown that the drug tamoxifen, as well as saving lives of cancer victims, can be used as a preventative measure

Photograph: John Lawrence

and of blood clots in the lungs, the drug prevented 30 times more deaths than it caused. In the UK, it costs £200 for a five-year course.

However, the findings only apply to women with hormone-sensitive breast cancer, 20,000 of the 30,000 new cases each year in the UK. In women who do not have hormone sensitive cancer – a quarter of those over 50 and half under 50 – the balance between the risks and benefits of tamoxifen remains unclear.

Professor Roy Calne, a study co-ordinator, said: "The best bet for those women is to get themselves into a randomised trial of tamoxifen."

The findings do not apply to the prevention of a first breast cancer in high-risk women, which is the subject of a separate trial. United States researchers decided to end the American arm of that trial last month after results showed the drug reduced the risk of a first breast cancer by 45 per cent. Half the women in the random trial were not on tamoxifen, and it was felt that it was unethical to keep them off the drug. British researchers this week decided to continue with the trial because they said there were still unanswered questions.

BBC in battle to safeguard TV integrity

By Janine Gibson
Media Correspondent

THE BBC is reviewing its rules on the production of documentaries after a series of embarrassing revelations which questioned the truth behind high-profile television investigations.

An insider said: "The BBC has to decide whether the guidelines themselves need to be rewritten or clarified, or whether it's a case of reiterating firmly to producers what the rules are. It's all about consistency: if you talk to all the factual departments, you get a different sense from each of what is acceptable."

The BBC is not alone in considering the need for tighter guidelines. Documentary producers agree that across the industry, the "fine line" dividing acceptable reconstruction of a verifiable event and "faking it" is being examined.

A senior industry figure said: "It doesn't matter if the programme is a 'docu-soap' or an investigation... If an event is reconstructed, then the viewer must somehow be made aware of that." A respected documentary producer added: "It is crucial that the credibility of documentaries isn't undermined."

After an investigation into the production of *Rogue Males*, Channel 4 issued an apology to viewers for misleading them and restated to staff that all reconstructions must be identified.

Steve Hewlett, Channel 4's head of factual programmes and features, said yesterday: "Television has a relationship with its audience that is based on trust... It is incumbent on all programme makers to outlive and maintain that relationship."

The BBC's Producers' Guidelines, which are issued to both in-house and external producers, state that "reconstructions should be identified clearly so that no-one is misled."

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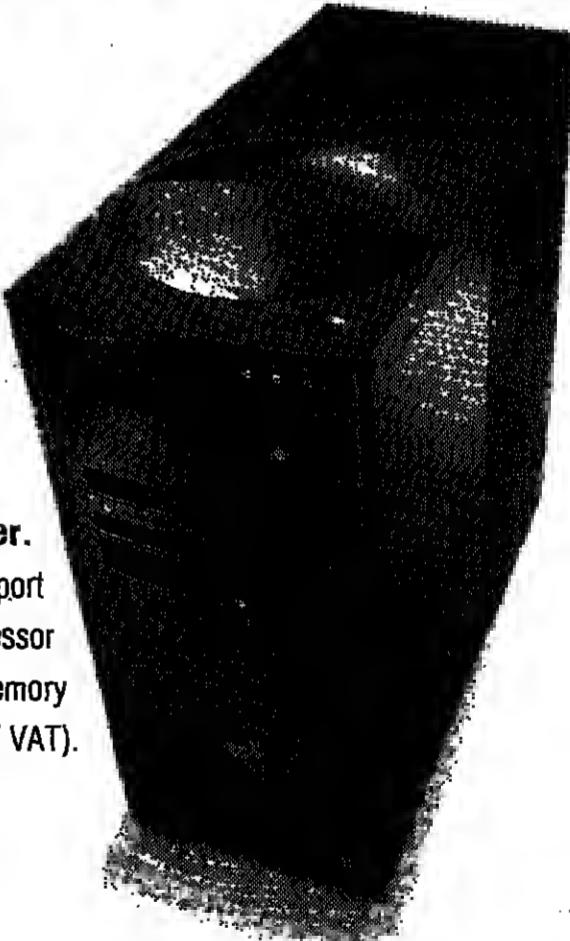
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G8 meeting in Birmingham: Blair's hopes for a laid-back atmosphere and new agenda have been set back by three crises from Asia

New-look summit dominated by old-style troubles

By Rupert Cornwell

IT WAS supposed to have been a new-look summit - with a sharply narrowed agenda, and much time spent in a rural retreat, allowing leaders of the world's eight leading powers to step back a moment from the onrush of events and consider the Big Picture. Some hope.

When Tony Blair welcomes his seven guests to Birmingham today for the annual G8 summit, three major concerns from Asia threaten to dominate proceedings: the continuing financial crisis in the region, the worsening turmoil in Indonesia - the planet's fourth most populous country - and, above all, the prospect that Pakistan will respond in kind to India's au-

clear tests this week and escalate what is already the sub-continent's most dangerous arms race in its history.

Behind them looms a scarcely less daunting set of issues: the state of near war in the Serbian province of Kosovo, fresh steps to reduce the debt burden that is choking the world's poorest countries, and the Middle East. And, of course, the two subjects which Mr Blair once promised would be the centrepiece of the occasion: international crime and how to create new jobs in an ever more automated and electronic era.

To some extent, Mr Blair has succeeded in changing the format after last year's gathering in Denver, Colorado, where "declaration diplomacy" plumbed

new depths of absurdity. This 24th such summit since former president Giscard d'Estaing inaugurated the tradition in France in 1975 will, for once, be without parallel sessions of finance and foreign ministers, which further encumbered proceedings.

These were held a week ago in London. As a result, the final communiqué from the leaders of the United States, Russia, Japan,

France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Italy and Canada was a modest eight pages long. They will spend virtually the whole of tomorrow at the retreat of Weston Park. But their minds may very well be in Asia.

Most urgent of all, the eight will do their utmost to persuade Pakistan not to carry out nuclear tests of its own. More problematic is the matter of retali-

tary sanctions against India. The US and Japan have already acted, but Russia and Britain, among others, oppose such retaliation. The summit would convey "the dismay of the international community", Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday. Britain's job as host was to find "the maximum unity" on the sanctions issue.

But Indonesia, and the re-

sulting further unrest in Asian financial markets, will come a close second, with the crucial unknown of just how far the eight will publicly express their private conviction that President Suharto should step down quickly, if that is the best hope of restoring order. The G8 will again oppose any reversion to protectionism by countries embroiled in the crisis.

The leaders are also under

intense pressure to take concrete steps to reduce the debts of the poorest countries - if not to cancel them outright, then at least to ensure they do not find themselves repaying more old debt than they are receiving in new aid. But the International Monetary Fund and Germany in particular are adamant that there is no point in forgiving debt until countries stop wasting the fi-

nancial resources they do have. That line does not go down well with international aid and human rights groups - and even worse with the demonstrators who will be making the same point this weekend outside Birmingham's International Convention Centre where the G8 is meeting. Mr Blair has promised "concrete measures" to reduce debt, but would give no details.



Photograph: Kieran Doherty

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Britain attacks US over evasion of cuts in greenhouse gases

By Michael McCarthy
Environment Correspondent

A SERIOUS split between the United States and Britain over how to tackle global warming emerged yesterday on the eve of the G8 summit in Birmingham.

The dispute, which sets President Bill Clinton against Tony Blair and the other European Union leaders, could threaten the international agreement on climate change painfully reached between nearly 150 countries at Kyoto, Japan, last December. An hour has been set aside tomorrow specifically for the G8 heads of government to discuss it.

Their differences became clear yesterday when Michael Meacher, the environment minister, warned that the Americans, the world's biggest emitters of the principal gas causing the greenhouse effect, carbon dioxide (CO₂), must not be able to buy their way completely out of the CO₂ cuts they agreed at Kyoto.

The Americans are seeking to do this through the system of internationally tradeable emissions permits discussed at the Kyoto meeting, which allows countries that have easily met

their obligations to cut greenhouse gases to sell off the surplus to other nations as "permits to pollute". Some Eastern European countries whose economies have collapsed, such as Russia, will have massive notional "pollution surpluses" under the treaty.

The US wants to be able to meet all the cuts it has promised by buying up permits, so that "reductions" in its CO₂ output would be merely on paper, while its factories and motor vehicles continued pumping out exhaust gases at an undiminished rate.

Britain and the countries of the EU will not accept this. Mr Meacher made clear yesterday, and will be pressing for at least 50 per cent of the US's promised CO₂ cuts to be real rather than paper reductions.

He pointed out that the US had 4 per cent of the world's population and 25 per cent of its greenhouse gas emissions. "That cannot continue," he said.

Addressing a meeting on climate change and the G8 summit at the House of Commons, Mr Meacher said: "It is certainly our view in Europe that there should be a limit on the proportion of cuts that countries can achieve through

emissions trading, although I know this is challenged in America." The limit should be no more than 50 per cent, he said, and the countries of the EU would be proposing this formally at a meeting next month.

In the meantime, he said, it would be raised at this weekend's G8 meeting, adding: "I am sure that the European heads of government will be pressing the point."

Mr Meacher was given backing from his Tory predecessor as environment minister, John Gummer, who said: "You cannot expect developing countries to come on board if the major polluter in the world fails to put its own house in order."

A leading American environmentalist, Philip Clapp, head of the National Environmental Trust, said success at the G8 summit depended on Mr Blair and the other EU leaders.

"Will they make it clear to the President that they expect action on the part of the US?" he asked. "There's a lot of talk and no action. The US is sending a signal that the Clinton administration has no intention of getting any reductions. It has not proposed one domestic measure since Kyoto to reduce carbon dioxide in any fashion."

'Poor 8' urge summit leaders to cancel Third World debts

By Louise Jury

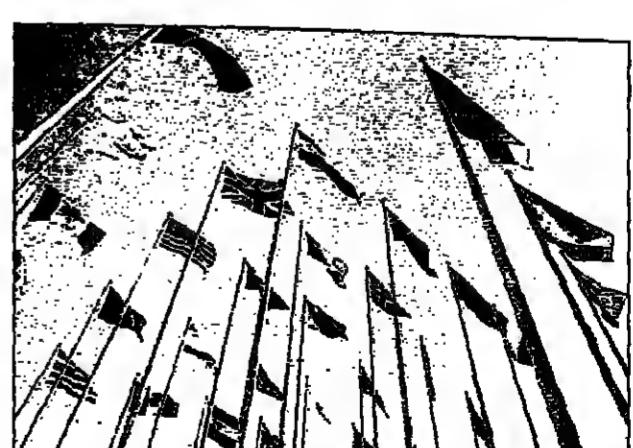
A FEW last-minute hitches marred preparations yesterday for the G8 summit which begins in Birmingham today. Four of the summit nations' flags were stolen in an overnight raid. The thieves also removed four 10ft poles from which the flags had been hung.

Despite a torrent of rain, several hundred square feet of yellow and curling grass were discovered alongside the A45 route which will bring President Bill Clinton into the city. The grass was quickly dealt with - spray-painted green. The flags took a little longer to resolve, but Birmingham City Council was confident yesterday that it would find replacements.

As the white and mainly male faces of the G8 nations arrived in convoys, representatives of what the charity Christian Aid has called "the Poor 8" got their chance to speak. Aid agencies and charities operating at the Jubilee 2000 coalition have joined forces to ask for a one-off cancellation of Third World debts to mark the new millennium.

Organisers of a demonstration tomorrow are hoping that it could attract up to 50,000 people - the biggest rally on a development issue since Live Aid - and force the G8 nations to act. Germany promised aid agencies that it would put the issue at the top of the summit agenda. Martin Drewry, of Christian Aid, said: "It is one of those moments when world history starts to happen. It is a unique opportunity."

Tales about the effects of Third World debt were told by representatives from Tanzania and Nicaragua, Jamaica and Bangladesh. Nunn Kidane, from Ethiopia, spoke for them all: "We would like to appeal to the G8 to give a chance to future generations ... give new hope by cancelling the debts by the year 2,000."



International flags fly in Birmingham for the summit
Photograph: News Team International

Claims about HIV and babies are proved false

By Charles Arthur
Science and Technology Editor

A RE-EXAMINATION of data on babies that appear to have "cleaned out" HIV from their systems shows that such claims are false. The dramatic finding shows that "transient" infection with the virus that causes Aids is probably a mirage caused by sloppy laboratory practice, according to a team of American scientists.

Their findings, published today, offer both good and bad news in the war against HIV. The study of 41 apparent cases of "transient" HIV infection indicates that transmission of the virus from mother to child occurs at a slightly lower rate than estimated – as the researchers reckon that the children were never in fact infected.

Their analysis, based on detailed genetic examinations of the samples, shows that the positive results were instead caused by mislabelling or by laboratory contamination.

However, the work also squashes the idea that some virologists had been developing, which was that something in children's metabolisms might be able to defeat the virus, which gradually overwhelms the body's immune system. Using that theory as a basis, they suggested, could lead to a cure for the disease.

"I don't think people were hanging their hopes on this being the answer," said Clive Loveday, professor of retrovirology at the Royal Free Hospital in London.

He was not involved in the new study, published today in the journal *Science*. But he commented: "I've never seen any proof of such 'transient' cases, and there's been no real explanation of why the virus should disappear."

The work shows again that where HIV is concerned, laboratory work is occasionally suspect. In 1995 *The Independent* revealed that the claim that a Manchester man in 1954 was the "first case" of Aids was false, because the version of the virus found was a modern mutation. That was subsequently blamed on contaminated instruments in the pathology laboratory.

Today's finding offers slim hope for HIV-infected mothers.

Roughly 14 per cent of babies born to HIV-infected mothers are themselves infected. But in 1995, a paper published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* claimed that in a number of cases, HIV-positive babies later tested HIV-negative.

The new paper re-examines 41 cases of "transient" infection which turned up in five separate studies of 1,561 HIV-infected infants and their mothers. By examining the genetic components of the HIV samples in detail, it shows that there are no cases where the virus identified in mother and child is unambiguously identical – as it should be if it was transmitted through the blood.

Instead, the scientists think

that the cause is either mislabelling in the laboratory – so that HIV-positive samples taken from others were mistakenly allocated to a child – or contamination when the "amplification" process used to identify the genetic material of HIV, was carried out.

DNA amplification is one of the most powerful diagnostic methods available to scientists performing gene testing, but it is so sensitive that it is easily contaminated by tiny amounts carried in the air or on laboratory instruments. That could give rise to "false positives". But when the child was examined subsequently, no HIV would be found – giving the appearance of "transient" infection.



The Very Rev John Threadgold, Dean of Chichester, coming face-to-face with himself yesterday in the form of a newly carved gargoyle on the cathedral wall, for which he provided the inspiration
Photograph: Solent News and Photo Agency

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Modern men get the blues in a woman's world

By Jeremy Laurance
Health Editor

THE feminisation of society is making men gloomy, according to a study. Depression is rising in men and falling in women and the explanation may lie with the change in gender roles.

Polash Shahjahan and Jonathan Cavanagh, from Royal Edinburgh Hospital, compared the rate of admissions for men and women with depression between 1980 and 1995. For women it fell 13 per cent and rose 13 per cent for men. Although far more women were admitted than men, the gap between the sexes narrowed. In 1980 twice as many women were hospitalised for depression as men, compared with 50 per cent more in 1995.

The authors suggest in the *British Medical Journal* that changes in society over the past 20 years have improved the mental health of women while shifting some of the psychological burden they have historically borne on to men.

Full-time jobs for men are declining, while more women are finding part- and full-time work. The result is declining social status for men as they lose their role as the sole financial provider and increasing isolation as they lose the comradeship of the workplace. The

increase in women working has meant more have been able to benefit from the advantages that work brings, previously enjoyed by men.

Previous studies identified a growing fear of failure among men, and the rise in male suicides over the past decade is well established. Women are opting for higher education in greater numbers than men and obtaining the qualifications they need in a world in which the job market for those without qualifications is shrinking.

Psychologists say work plays a more important part in a man's image of himself and its loss has graver consequences. A woman might say she is married with two children and a dental hygienist.

A man would just say he is a dental hygienist. Because they use their jobs as a source of identity, if they lose them it is more difficult because they have put all their emotional eggs in one basket.

"They pay lip service to New Man but they don't want to be seen as wimps," one psychologist said.

The authors consider whether the apparent increase in depression in men may be the result of a change in the way GPs treat depression or in the readiness of men to seek and accept psychiatric help.

DAILY POEM

Emu Hunt

By John Kinsella

*They'd drive them down this stretch of track
At breakneck speed, and then two guys
Hiding behind those thick-set wandoos trees
Would snap the rope tight at breast height
And toss them up, leave them sprawling
Bulbous-eyed, with claws grasping at thin air;
Necks writhing like headless snakes
Waiting for the calm of sunset, tarantistic
Feathers fanning the ground like chopper blades
Skewed off-centre, the staccato of bullets
Sprayed from rapid-fire semi-automatics
Reverberating through the forest canopy;
Meat ants driving hastily towards the corpses.*

This week's poems celebrate the work of John Kinsella, who was born in Perth, Western Australia, in 1963, and mark the simultaneous publication of his *Poems 1980-1994* (Bloodaxe, £19.95) and his new volume, *The Hunt* (Bloodaxe, £7.95). This poem appears in *The Hunt*.



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NHS patients at risk from millennium bug

By Anthony Bevins
Political Editor

PATIENTS could be at risk in at least 45 NHS Trusts, who have reported they are "not confident that all their clinical equipment would continue functioning normally in the year 2000".

A National Audit Office report on the threat posed by the millennium computer bug last night prompted swift reaction from the Government, which put "rigorous new measures" in place "to ensure that patient care and safety are not compromised".

But fears that the action being taken is too little, too late, are compounded by the facts that last night's report excludes Scotland and Wales; that 28 per cent of NHS Trusts in England - 118 trusts in all - did not even bother to respond to a NAO survey; and summarised results of a survey by the NHS Executive will not be known until the middle of next month, more than 10 weeks after the deadline for returns.

Last night's report also disclosed that 16 of the 100 Health Authorities in England ignored the NAO investigation, and 37 of the authorities that did bother to reply said "they had not yet collected information on GP practices in their area". Of the authorities who replied, 26 said "they were not confident that GPs' systems would be year 2000 compliant in time".

It is estimated that more than 8,000 English GP practices are computerised, with as many as 29 million patient records dependent to some extent on IT systems.

The NAO last night refused to name the authorities or trusts that had not bothered to respond to its survey. Asked about Scotland and Wales, the NAO said the implications of its report would be picked up by the Scottish and Welsh offices.

All computers and clinical equipment are at risk from the millennium bug; the inability of some programs to distinguish between the year 1900 and 2000, when two-digit years go to

00 from the end of next year. The NAO report noted that the NHS Executive had already told all trusts and authorities "that it is impossible to predict the seriousness of malfunctions but in extreme circumstances failure or malfunction of equipment could even put patients' lives at risk".

Against that background, only 63 NHS trusts, a fifth of those who replied to the questionnaire, told the NAO that their clinical equipment would be year 2000 compliant by the end of this year - on target for the NHS executive deadline.

More than a third of those who replied, 106 trusts, said they would need to work through to the end of April to complete the programme.

"One-fifth of NHS trusts [57] were not confident that they would succeed in ensuring that their clinical equipment would continue functioning normally in year 2000," the report said. It then added: "The likelihood of failure in medical devices is at present unknown."



Jean Chretien (left) talking to Tony Blair at 10 Downing Street yesterday, during the Canadian Prime Minister's visit to sign a trade agreement. Photograph: Paul Vincenzi/AP

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Blair offers compromise over union recognition

By Colin Brown
and Barrie Clement

TONY BLAIR is offering a series of concessions to "old Labour" over union recognition to defuse one of the most difficult issues faced by the Prime Minister since Labour came to power.

Downing Street has conceded that collective bargaining should be compulsory where more than half of any workforce are union members. Mr Blair has also agreed there should be no test of minimum union membership before a recognition ballot is held.

And while unions will be asked to accept a 40 per cent threshold for ballots for trade union recognition, it is understood that the figure may be left out of the main Bill and included in regulations to enable it to be reviewed after a reasonable period.

Senior ministerial sources said that could leave open the option of reducing the thresh-

old to 35 per cent after a year, if a higher threshold proved unacceptable, without having to return to Parliament to amend primary legislation.

If it is going to be under review, it will be in regulations. After a year you could change it to 35 per cent. That is being discussed," said one source. In a further compromise, there could be exemptions for firms employing fewer than 20 staff.

The CBI had wanted a 50 per cent threshold. But Labour MPs warned the Government at a meeting with Mr Monks at the Commons this week that there would be a big revolt if the Cabinet tried to impose a 40 per cent threshold without some sweeteners for the unions.

The compromise was thrashed out after John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, angrily stepped in when it was reported that the 40 per cent threshold had been agreed. Mr Prescott's friends last night said the Deputy Prime Minister would back the com-

promise, if it won the support of the TUC.

The package was approved by the Cabinet after the draft White Paper "Fairness at Work" was outlined by Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade. A senior source said the White Paper was likely to preselect the "pros and cons" of the 40 per cent figure.

The Deputy Prime Minister made it clear to Mr Blair that it was a "crunch" issue for him, and the deal appears to have reached approval from both sides. The Prime Minister's official spokesman said: "Every contribution endorsed the plan that Margaret Beckett outlined, including Mr Prescott."

While some sources emphasised the influence of Mr Prescott, others pointed to the patient diplomacy of John Monks, TUC general secretary.

While the CBI wanted to allow employers to define the "constituencies" for ballots on recognition, Mr Monks has successfully argued for a "neutral"

system in which both sides attempt to agree, with recourse to an independent arbiter if that is not possible.

The TUC leader has also secured a compromise on the size of company to be excluded from the legislation. The CBI wanted organisations with fewer than 50 workers to be exempt, but that limit has come down to 20.

Mr Monks welcomed signs that the White Paper would be published next week and said that while some trade unions would be concerned by the 40 per cent threshold, the White Paper should be judged as a whole.

Sources close to Mr Blair said the Prime Minister did not want a confrontation with the unions. "He wanted an amicable agreement and that is what we've got," said a source.

Mr Prescott insisted that final approval of the draft White Paper should not be given until next week, after agreement with Mr Monks. Talks are continuing, but it could be published next Thursday.

Women fight to sit in Welsh assembly

By Louise Jury

THE Labour Party faces bitter wrangling this weekend over moves to ensure that women get an equal share of the seats in the new Welsh assembly. Female campaigners fear that Welsh men may be intent on scuppering chances of a more representative assembly.

The principality's four female MPs and two MEPs are spearheading efforts to ensure a gender balance in the assembly which had proposed the alternative, said it was "practical, workable and flexible". Twining was divisive, he said. It could mean, for example, that a larger constituency could disenfranchise a smaller neighbour.

Jeff Hopkins, Llanelli constituency secretary, said they were in favour of equal opportunities, but there was not a big pool of women available in Wales because they had not taken part in politics before. "In terms of politics [women] need education ... so that they understand that there's a system there that they can use," he said.

However, several party members said it was "traditional" constituency constituencies in places such as the valleys who were opposing twining. "The only way

[the Pontypridd alternative] can achieve a gender balance is by a barter with all the old power brokers," one said.

Chris Roberts, of the "twins to win" campaign, said half the constituencies had signed up in support and they believed many union votes would go their way.

"Given the democratic deficit as far as women are concerned, we think the slight disadvantages of twinning are worth the great advantages it will secure in producing a truly representative assembly," he added.

Julie Morgan, MP for Cardiff North, pointed out only four out of forty MPs were women, three of whom were selected from the now-banned all-women shortlists; 19 per cent of councillors were female, a lower proportion than in England and Scotland. Ensuring there were women in the new assembly was a way of changing the "totally male-dominated" politics in Wales, she said.

The Welsh Equal Opportunities Commission is currently investigating the "substantial under-representation" of women in Welsh political life and intends to present its findings on the problem to the Government.

Last votes for 'spoiler' candidates

NEW POWERS to outlaw "spoiler" candidates like the "Liberal Democrat" who took 10,000 votes in one election were announced by the Home Office yesterday.

A new Bill will also allow parties to print their emblems beside their candidates' names to "make it easier for voters to distinguish between candidates and parties", the Home Office said.

The changes will be possible under a new register of political parties to be set up for the Scottish Parliament, the Welsh Assembly and the European Parliament.

The new forums will use proportional representation and parties putting forward lists of candidates will have to register at Companies House.

Under the proposed laws a prospective candidate would need a registered party's permission to use its name or "any form of words which might lead voters to associate the candidate with that party", the Home Office said.

Registration under the new Bill will be voluntary but the Home Office expects "any serious political party" to register in order to protect its name.

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Misery of dolphins trained to go to war

By Charles Arthur
Science and Technology Editor

DOLPHINS trained by the Soviet military to be "watchdogs" at naval installations, and to lay or identify mines, are suffering in inadequate dolphinariums around the world, or have died in transit, according to a report.

The study, published today by the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS), based in Bath, also highlighted the fact that military use of dolphins is still a priority for the US, which, like the Soviet Union, first began experiments with the mammals in the 1950s.

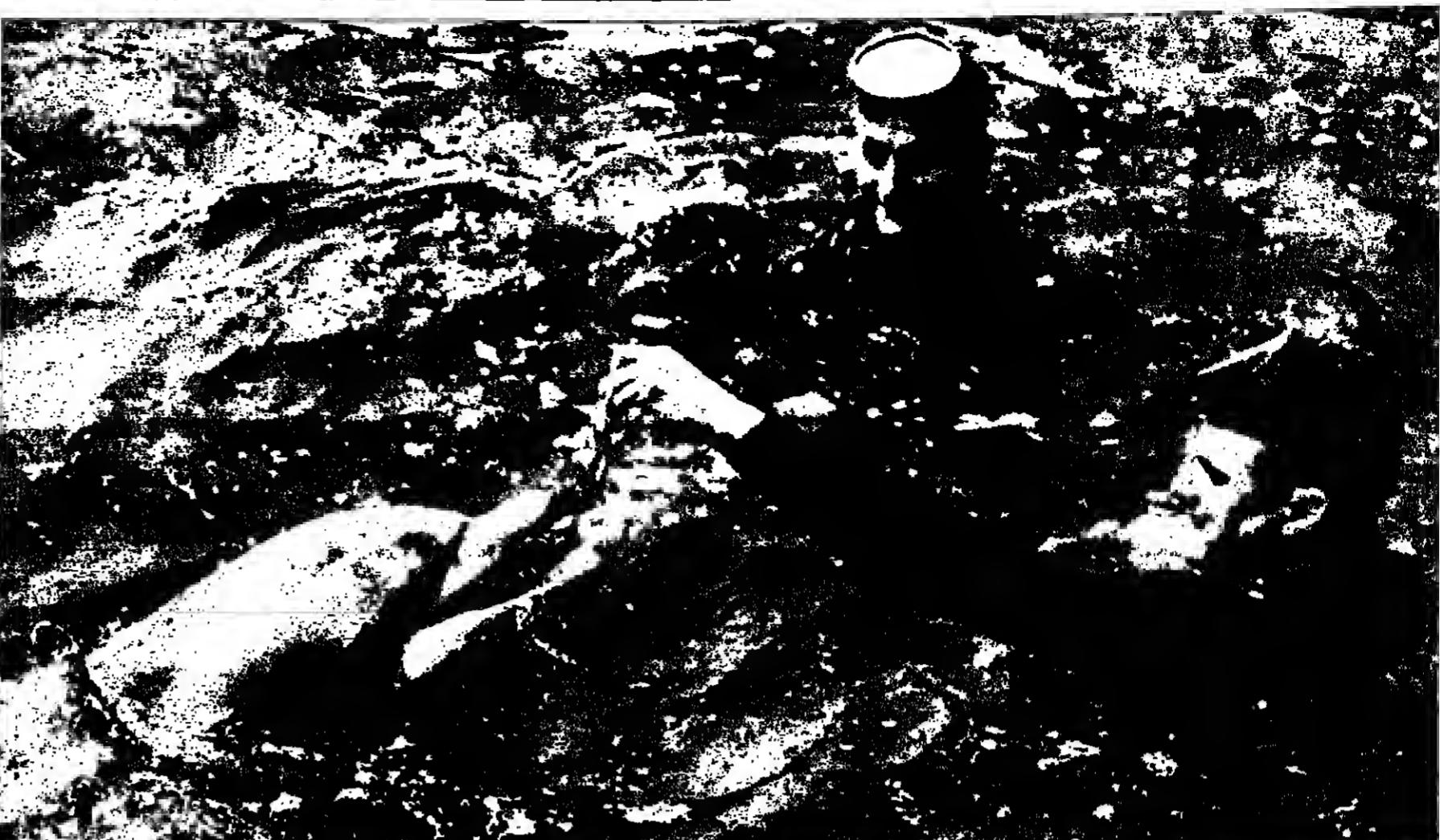
The emphasis the US places on the work was demonstrated last week, when the WDCS computer was the target of a hacker based in a US naval installation, apparently seeking advance sight of the report.

The report tells a dismal tale of the fate of 43 bottlenose dolphins which were trained by the Russians and lived in the Black Sea. After the breakup of the Soviet Union, many

were sold to dolphinariums or theme-parks in Malta, Cyprus, Turkey and Argentina. Frances Clarke, the WDCS's campaigns co-ordinator, said: "We want British tourists to be aware of the conditions these dolphins suffer, and urge them not to visit these institutions."

Many of the animals, reckoned to be as smart as humans in some regards, died in poor facilities at receiving airports. Others were taken to swimming-pools or harbour pens. In all, of the 43 exported from the Black Sea, 34 died thanks to poor travelling conditions and facilities in captivity. "Russia still has dolphins held at Sebastopol, but because of a lack of funding they aren't using them for anything except search and recovery in the port," said Miss Clarke. "But the US Navy has a very intensive programme, and isn't going to phase it out, because dolphins prove useful in the Gulf."

The US Navy is also using dolphins to lay and detect mines, and monitor submarines. During the Gulf war, it used them to search



US Navy divers training a dolphin, used to detect intruders. Dolphins used by the Russians have suffered since the Soviet Union broke up

Photograph: FSP

ahead of ships for mines. Since the 1950s, military scientists have tried to find ways to exploit their capabilities. Experiments are thought to include carrying cameras and mines.

The WDCS computer security system foiled what it described as a

"half-hearted" attempt at hacking. "If you try to put in codes that would take you past the public area of our website, the system automatically tracks you back to your source," said Miss Clarke. "We found the attempt came from a naval military source

in the US." The society said US service chiefs admitted the attempt. Miss Clarke said: "There is nothing in the report that would have an impact on the US Navy, although it could be of general interest to them."

Exporters say they are helping to conserve the species through captive breeding programmes but the society said the trade was a commercial venture contributing nothing to conservation. No successful reproduction programme had been

established in any of the facilities except at one in Israel. "The export of Black Sea dolphins is simply a disaster for the animals involved," says the report. The WDCS is calling for the return to the wild of the surviving exported dolphins.

promise
gnition

Body-parts sculptor has jail term reduced

By Kate Watson-Smyth

THE sculptor Anthony-Noël Kelly, who made legal history by becoming the first person in Britain to be convicted of stealing human body parts, is to be released from prison in the next few days after winning an appeal against sentence.

Kelly had his sentence reduced from nine to three months by the Court of Appeal yesterday. He has already served six weeks in Brixton Prison.

Kelly, 42, a nephew of the Duke of Norfolk, who smiled and raised his eyebrows at the judge's decision, had earlier lost his appeal against conviction.

Lord Justice Rose said the case presented "a difficult sentencing exercise" because it was so unique. "We are prepared to accept that he had no financial motive for doing what he did and that he was primarily motivated by what he regarded as artistic reasons," he said.

But he added that the theft of body parts, albeit comparatively old ones, was something that the public would view with "repugnance" and might have a dissuading effect on the mind of someone who was contemplating donating his body for scientific research.

Kelly's solicitor, Mark Stephens, said the date of his release would have to be worked out with the Prison Service. "With automatic remission, it comes down to about six weeks' imprisonment which is as devastating to him as a year would be to others," he said. "You can imagine the effect on a man with his artistic sensibility."

Kelly's accomplice, Neil Lindsay, 25, who helped to smuggle more than 40 body parts from the Royal College of Surgeons at night in black binnies, was also successful in his appeal. His six-month suspended sentence was amended to a two-month suspended sentence.

Lord Justice Rose said that both men were hitherto of good character but that Lindsay was under 21 at the time of the offence and was "persuaded to act as he did by a man who was not only considerably older but who had a considerable force of personality".

They were the first to be convicted of such a theft because previous body-snatchers have been charged with the lesser common law offence of outraging public decency.

At their trial, the jury was told that the body parts were transported by taxi, motorcycle and even Underground train to Kelly's studio in west London where, using rubber moulds, glass fibre and plaster, he created bronze and silver casts.

His scheme was uncovered when Her Majesty's Inspector of Anatomy saw a newspaper photograph of his first exhibition of a bronzed head and torso and contacted police.

Why women like it hot and men keep their cool

By Jeremy Laurance
Health Editor

SCIENTISTS have confirmed what every Woody Allen fan knows – that women are too hot to handle.

Measurements of the temperature of 219 people aged from one to 84 revealed that on average the women were 0.4 degrees Fahrenheit hotter.

Oddly, however, the women had colder hands, which were on average 2.8 degrees cooler than the men's, giving some sci-

entific credence to the saying "cold hands, warm heart". The finding may explain the commonest bedroom dispute between the sexes – what thickness of duvet to sleep under. The greater difference between the core and skin temperatures in women accounts for their greater propensity to feel the cold. Their cool-blooded male partners are meanwhile forced to swelter under layers they would rather do without.

The researchers from the University of Utah, Salt Lake

City, who report their findings in the *Lancet*, found that women get hotter as their menstrual cycle advances with a higher core temperature in the last 14 days than in the first 14 days. Post-menopausal women over 50 were cooler than pre-menstrual girls under 13.

Weight only made a difference to the temperature of the men. The latter they were, the lower their core temperature – suggesting that big men really can keep cool.

■ The risk of a heart attack rises in the two weeks after a cold, suggesting the infection may trigger the attack, researchers have found.

A study of 9,500 people, of whom almost 2,000 had a heart attack, found those who had had a cold in the previous 10 days were at almost three times the risk. The risk declined with the passage of time since the cold.

The authors of the study, published in the *Lancet*, say that inflammation caused by the cold could alter constituents in the blood or tissues which could account for the increase in risk of an attack. Although only 4 per cent of the heart-attack patients in the study had a cold in the preceding two weeks they say their finding could be of great public health interest.

"A better understanding of the role of chronic and acute infections in the aetiology [cause] of acute myocardial infarction [heart attack] may result in new strategies for its prevention and treatment," they say.

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Snub for black police in gallantry awards

By Ian Burrell
Home Affairs Correspondent

TWO black undercover police officers who were shot in the line of duty have been overlooked for gallantry awards in which the Police Federation described as a racist snub which left it "staggered and disgusted".

The officers were seconded from the Metropolitan Police to try and smash a network of crack dealers in the Handsworth area of Birmingham. While posing as drug buyers, they were both shot in a struggle with three men.

Yesterday Mike Bennett, chairman of the Police Federation for the Metropolitan Police area, said the officers deserved the George Medal for Gallantry, the second highest civilian award for gallantry after the George Cross.

He condemned the West Midlands Police's failure to nominate the men, and said: "If it's not racism, it's the biggest case of hypocrisy you will ever come across. I would be in despair if this was a racism incident, but I must tell you that both of the officers concerned think it is."

He said the case was a bad advertisement for the police, and would not help recruit more officers from the ethnic minorities.

Mr Bennett has written to the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, saying he was "staggered and disgusted" at the manner in which the officers were treated.

The officers, who were unarmed and using the cover names Philip and Martin, were attacked while sitting in a parked car in the Soho Road area of Birmingham at 7.30pm one evening in October 1994.

As they waited for a dealer they had arranged to meet they were approached by two men who, after asking for a light, tried to steal the car keys.

In the struggle that followed Philip, the driver, was shot in his calf. Martin attacked the gunman and was also shot in the leg. Philip, despite his injury, rushed to Martin's aid, knocked the gunman down, and sat on him. He was kicked in the face by another man and shot. The attackers ran off but three men were arrested later, and jailed for periods of 12, eight and five years.

The officers are now suing the West Midlands Chief Constable after having to leave the police because of their injuries.

A West Midlands Police spokesman said: "The Chief Constable and the trial judge in criminal proceedings have already recommended both officers for promotion to vice-chancellors for promoting too



Photograph: Rui Xavier

Old boys' network 'dominates universities'

By Ben Russell
Education Correspondent

AN OLD BOYS' network still

dominates Britain's universities, lecturers said yesterday.

They condemned vice-chancellors for promoting too

few women to professorships and said that urgent action was needed to redress the balance.

The Association of University Teachers (AUT) published a league table designed to

"name and shame" the worst

offenders. Universities and colleges defended their record arguing the table was years out of date. But they acknowledged that men still far outnumbered women in many academic departments.

The AUT survey, based on

figures for 1996, the most recent available, found that men made up 97.5 per cent of professors and 83 per cent of senior lecturers and researchers. Union leaders said female professors were still outnumbered two to one at even the best institutions.

The AUT president, Penny Holloway, said: "We have worked willingly and industriously with vice-chancellors and produced a plethora of good practice guidelines, but worthy words are not enough."

David Triesman, general secretary of the association, singled out art and design courses for criticism. He said: "You can walk through fine art departments and never see a woman. Art departments are some of the most macho, hard-drinking environments you can imagine."

But Professor Elaine Thomas, chairman of the Conference for

Higher Education in Art and Design, which represents department heads, said much progress had been made. She said: "Our fine art department has a 50-50 split and I do think things have started to move and fine art has started to make progress."

"

When I was a student there was only one female tutor, and when I started work at Ulster I was the only female lecturer. In the early years it was awful and incredibly lonely, but now far more women come into the system and become role models."

She said that a wave of early retirements across universities in the past two years had brought a rapid change in the make-up of departments.

Other universities also attacked the AUT figures. Plymouth University, condemned by the association as having the

worst ratio of male to female professors at 43 to 1, said the true figure was now 15 to 1. A spokeswoman said: "There has been a deliberate policy in the university. We were aware that things were not right and we decided to do something about it."

Diana Warwick, chief executive of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, which represents university heads, said: "Ever since CVCP's own equal opportunities survey in 1996, we have promoted the importance of action over policy."

The new university standards watchdog was criticised yesterday as being out of touch and a threat to academic freedom. Mr Triesman said the Quality Assurance Agency "is to be run by people whose experience of teaching is either non-existent or should be exhibited on the Antiques Road Show".

Blaze which killed four was deliberate

A HOUSE fire in which a mother, her two young daughters and a baby-sitter died was started deliberately, police said yesterday.

Lisa Dodgson, 25, her daughters Amy Louise, aged two years and nine months, and nine-month-old Rose Marie Lakey, died in the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne, after the fire broke out behind the front door in their house in the West End of the city. The baby-sitter, Emma Louise Cater, 16, died last night.

It is thought all four were trapped upstairs when the fire began about 5.30am.

Detective Superintendent Derek Storey said: "We believe the fire was deliberate and an accelerant was used at the front door." Police planned to talk to members of Ms Dodg-

son's family and her friends to work out a picture of her lifestyle. "At this moment there is no apparent motive of why this tragic incident has occurred," he said.

"This is a tragic incident in which a young mother aged 25 and two young children died in tragic circumstances." Fifty officers were assigned to the case, he said, and a mobile police incident room would be sited on the street 24 hours a day until officers knew what had happened.

He could not confirm suggestions from neighbours that Ms Dodgson had been pregnant. Police did not know who had been the target for the attack, Mr Storey said. But he added: "I do not think for one moment that anyone would be targeting young infants. It's horrendous two young children

to have been robbed of their lives." Police teams were yesterday examining the house, in a terraced row in a run-down area of Denton Burn, and a sniffer dog was also called in.

The windows and doors of the property next door and many other empty houses in the street were boarded up with metal screens to keep out vandals and squatters.

Breandan O'Kane, the Tyne & Wear Fire Brigade Divisional Officer, said: "It was a very severe fire to get through, especially when persons are reported to be trapped inside."

"It is obviously really upsetting for firefighters who they have to pull children from a fire, especially a baby."

"The surviving 16-year-old girl who was in the house was in a very bad way when she went to hospital."

T.rex's ugly cousin is unearthed

SCIENTISTS have discovered the near complete skull of a genuine ugly monster, a wrinkly faced dinosaur with sharp teeth and horns that may have used its face to frighten enemies.

The creature, *Majungasaurus* *acutus*, was a two-legged predator almost 20ft long and a distant cousin of *Tyrannosaurus rex*. It lived near the end of the dinosaurs' reign, 65 to 70 million years ago, on what is now the African island of Madagascar.

Majungasaurus had a highly unusual bone structure and features researchers suspect were used to send visual signals to attract potential mates or threaten enemies. Its facial bones were rough and wrinkled, and it had a bony hump above each eye socket which was probably covered with a non-bony horn.

The discovery was reported

Krause said: "This was the most terrific find I have been associated with in more than 25 years field work."

Majungasaurus appeared to have been buried during a flood soon after its death, protecting its remains from scavengers and decomposition.

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مكتبة من الأصل

Gaza bloodshed marks 50-year struggle

By Patrick Cockburn
in Jerusalem

ISRAELI soldiers killed eight Palestinians, including an eight-year-old boy, in riots in Gaza yesterday as Palestinians commemorated the anniversary of their forced flight 50 years ago from what is now Israel. It is the worst violence for 18 months and may indicate that, given the stalemate in the peace talks, the confrontation between Israel and the Palestinians is taking a bloodier turn.

The Palestinians died in clashes at the northern and southern ends of the Gaza Strip, the congested enclave which is home to 1 million Palestinians and 5,000 Jewish settlers.

At the Erez checkpoint Aklam Abu Askar, one of the wounded, was quoted as saying: "I saw somebody shot in the neck and went to evacuate him. They shot me in the right arm. When I continued pulling him, they shot me in the other arm."

Six of the Palestinians who died were killed as they demonstrated outside the Jewish settlement in Gush Katif in Gaza, which has often seen fighting in the past. Major-General Abdel Razid al-Mujaideh, chief of public security in the Gaza Strip, said two boys aged eight were killed, though other sources said one was in a coma. He said: "The number killed reached eight martyrs and 80 were wounded." A further 100 people were injured on the West Bank, mostly in Hebron, Bethlehem and Ramallah.

The violence yesterday was the worst since September 1996, when Benjamin Netanyahu, the newly elected Israeli Prime Minister, opened a tunnel under the Muslim quarter in the Old City in Jerusalem. More than 80 people were killed and over 1,000 injured on both sides.

On that occasion, Palestinian police fired back at Israeli troops. This happened on one occasion in Gaza yesterday, but on the West Bank Israeli troops appeared to be mainly firing rubber-coated steel bullets and tear-gas at demonstrators.

In Jerusalem the day began



Palestinians carrying away the body of Samir Fayad, who was shot by Israeli troops at al-Qarara village, in the Gaza Strip

Photograph: Reuters

with Jewish extremists setting fire to a wooden door leading to the sanctuary over which stand al-Aqsa mosque and the Dome of the Rock.

Police and border guards with long wooden batons later broke up a march to commemorate al-Naqba, the disaster when 700,000 Palestinians lost their homes in Israel in 1948. Hatem Abdel Qader, a member of the Palestinian legislature, was beaten by police.

In the central square of Nablus, the largest city on the West Bank, some 3,000 people gathered to observe a two-min-

utes' silence and listen to a speech by Yasser Arafat, speaking from Gaza. "We are not just a bunch of refugees begging for pity and charity," he said. "We are not guests in this world. We are partners in it, and this partnership cannot be fulfilled without the establishment of a state."

When other speakers mentioned the name of Mr Netanyahu, people who were standing on the rooftops fired shots into the air.

There was a march by purposeful-looking young men belonging to Hamas, the Islamic militant organisation, carry-

ing a large model of the Dome of the Rock, with its golden dome, on their shoulders. Small boys carried placards saying: "50 Years of Palestine Disaster". A blue-and-white Israeli flag was burned on a roof. The mood was festive rather than angry, until rumours spread through the crowd of Palestinians killed elsewhere.

In Jerusalem, Israeli border guards, paramilitary police armed with batons and guns firing rubber bullets chased small boys up and down the road below the Ottoman walls surrounding the Old City. "If the soldiers would go away all this

would stop," said a shopkeeper, opening the metal doors that protect his shop by six inches. Occasional empty bottles were hurled at the police from side-streets.

Tension has increased in Jerusalem in the past week since a Jewish seminary student belonging to a settler organisa-

tion called Ateret Cohanim was stabbed to death in the Via Dolorosa in the Old City.

A 51-year-old Palestinian construction worker was similarly killed with a knife in what appears to be a retaliatory attack as he walked to work past

the ultra-Orthodox neighbourhood of Mea Sharim. Frustration is deep among the 2.9 million Palestinians living in Gaza, the West Bank and east Jerusalem over the failure of the Oslo accords of 1993 to improve their lives or move them far towards self-determination.

Israeli restrictions on the movement of people and goods led to a 35-per-cent fall in per capita gross national product and a rise in the number of unemployed Palestinians from 20 per cent to 42 per cent in the four years after Oslo, according to a European Union report.

monitoring body. Acknowledging that a land "buffer" would not deter missiles, he responded: "The fact that they can fly in through the window doesn't mean you open the door."

Mr Netanyahu dismissed Ms Albright's earlier upbeat assessment of Palestinian attempts to rein in terrorism, saying – also with reference to yesterday's violence – that the Palestinian authorities could "whip up violence" when it suited them and "this is not a pressure tactic we can accept". He lambasted the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, for not securing a change in the Palestinian Charter, which calls for the abolition of Israel.

Mr Netanyahu had hinted before leaving Israel that he would make his appeal direct to the US public and politicians and he was expected also to address meetings on Capitol Hill before leaving for New York today. The prospect of "megaphone diplomacy" appeared to have prompted Ms Albright to defend publicly the US position, as she did at short notice earlier this week, giving assurances about Israel's security but accepting that in matters of national security, Israel's elected leaders had the last word.

Yesterday, Mr Netanyahu made no bones about the conceptual gap between himself and Jordan, he called for a "territorial buffer" to be preserved to the east and the west of Israel. He demanded guarantees from the Palestinian authorities, possibly in the form of legislation, that would outlaw incitement to violence and ethnic and religious hatred in Palestinian territory and proposed a three-party

Netanyahu appeals direct to US public on Israel's behalf

By Mary Dejevsky
in Washington

AS FRESH violence flared in the West Bank yesterday, the Israeli Prime Minister took his case for improved security guarantees direct to American opinion with a forceful plea for "security as the foundation for peace". He also warned in no uncertain terms against any unilateral declaration of statehood by the Palestinians as a move that would pose "a mortal danger to Israel" and "wreck the peace".

Under strong United States pressure to break the 16-month deadlock in the peace process, Benjamin Netanyahu was addressing the pro-Israel Washington Institute for the Near East in a hastily arranged breakfast speech, before embarking on a new round of talks with the US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright. The new talks were scheduled after a meeting on Wednesday produced no agreement.

Speaking with determined clarity spiked with flashes of passion, Mr Netanyahu said the 1993 Oslo accords had "failed miserably" to guarantee Israel's security, and he gave the most detailed account of the Israeli position yet to have emerged in the public domain.

Citing the successful precedent of peace with Egypt and Jordan, he called for a "territorial buffer" to be preserved to the east and the west of Israel. He demanded guarantees from the Palestinian authorities, possibly in the form of legislation, that would outlaw incitement to violence and ethnic and religious hatred in Palestinian territory and proposed a three-party

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Chinese round on India over nuclear testing

By Teresa Poole

CHINA yesterday attacked India for its nuclear tests, saying it had shown "outrageous contempt for the common will of the international community". North Korea also said it could revive its nuclear-power programme, because Washington was being too slow supplying promised light-water reactors.

As the rest of the world rounded on Delhi, Peking for the first time also claimed a place on the moral high ground of supposed nuclear respectability. It was "deeply shocked", a foreign ministry statement said. The tests would have "serious consequences to the peace and stability in South Asia and the world at large".

The Indian ambassador to Peking was summoned to hear a protest, and the Foreign Minister, Tang Jiaxuan, phoned his US counterpart, Madeleine Albright, to call for a "clear-cut and firm stance" against India's nuclear programme.

In recent years Peking has more often been heard defending its own right to a modern nuclear armoury. China did not halt its own test programme until July 1996, when it conducted its 45th nuclear blast. Peking then implemented a moratorium on testing and in September 1996 signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. Since then stories have persisted that China has helped Pakistan develop missile systems and nuclear technology, an allegation denied by both.

India's mistrust of China's relationship with Pakistan is never far from the surface in relations between Asia's two giants. The Press Trust of India news agency said the Indian Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, had cited "an atmosphere of distrust" in relations with China in a letter to President Bill Clinton explaining the decision to conduct nuclear tests. "We have an overt nuclear-weapon state on our borders, a state which committed armed aggression against India in 1962," the letter said.

For decades later, India and China have still not managed to settle disputes over border demarcations.

Peking yesterday dismissed India's picture of China as a nu-



A worker cleaning the floor in front of a picture of a mushroom cloud at the Military Museum in Peking. Yesterday, the Chinese said the Indian tests would have 'serious consequences for peace and stability' Photograph: Nathalie Behring/Reuters

clear threat as "gratuitous". "India wants to achieve a dominant position in South Asia," said Sun Shihai, deputy director of the Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Also in Peking yesterday, North Korea's ambassador to China, Chu Chang-jun, conducted a rare news briefing at which he warned that "some of our officials" had suggested

Pyongyang should revive its nuclear-power programme. He accused Washington of moving too slowly on supplying promised light-water reactors. Under a 1994 accord, Pyongyang agreed to halt its reactor programme in return for safer reactors financed by South Korea, the US, and Japan.

More recently, North Korea was accused of supplying technology for Pakistan's new Ghauri missile, whose test flight a few weeks ago so alarmed the Indian government.

■ Britain is recalling its High Commissioner from New Delhi for consultations, Reuters reports. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, told parliament Britain would be consulting its European partners on further reactions but did not mention the possibility of imposing sanctions.

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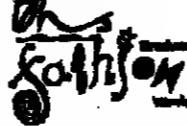
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Kremlin takes fright as Lebed bids for power

By Phil Reeves
in Moscow

ALEXANDER LEBED, the former paratrooper general once rated as Russia's most trusted politician, is about to face the most important battle to date in his campaign to take over the Kremlin.

This weekend he hopes to burst out of the wings on to the centre stage of Russian politics by winning the governorship of Krasnoyarsk, a mineral-rich region in western Siberia four times the size of Texas.

Voters will go to the polls on Sunday for the final round of the election, which, if Mr Lebed triumphs, will make him a frontrunner in the race to replace Boris Yeltsin. The contest, which pitches him against the incumbent governor, Valery Zubov, a moderate pro-market, is seen as a test-bed for the presidential election in 2000, and has drawn in worried rivals, power-hungry oligarchs and the Kremlin.

Victory for Mr Lebed, a nationalist, would restore much of the clout he lost when an ungrateful Mr Yeltsin signed a decree, five on national television, firing him as head of the Security Council. His dismissal came only four months after Mr Yeltsin gave him the job in a brazen attempt to win over his 10.7 million share of the vote between the two rounds of the 1996 presidential elections.

His sacking - the product of infighting amid the President's aides - came despite his success in brokering an end to the Chechen war; it set a vengeful Mr Lebed on Mr Yeltsin's heels. The fact that Mr Lebed, 48, won last month won the first round of the Krasnoyarsk election with 45 per cent, seems likely to win him raised alarm throughout Russia's political establishment. He has made no secret of his plan to use the job, which gives him a helpful seat

in the Federation Council, as a launching pad for a bid for the highest office.

The Communists fear he will take a large bite out of their stagnant electorate, burying their slender hopes of succeeding Mr Yeltsin. His rivals know one of his weaknesses, the lack of big-time money, could be solved. To the alarm of the Kremlin, and of much of the Moscow financial and social elite ranged behind it, he would be well-placed to recruit Siberia's raw-material barons to bankroll his presidential bid.

That anxiety was reflected by Moscow's mayor, Yuri Luzhkov, a frontrunner for the presidency, who has pitched in to help

Alexander Lebed: Democrat or despot?



Mr Lebed's opponent; the mayor is well aware that Mr Lebed is a fellow nationalist and a genuine rival for his turf, who shares his flare for publicity.

Mr Lebed's brother, Alexei, another trimbone-voiced ex-paratrooper, is governor of the neighbouring Khabarovsk region. As the central government tries to assert its control over 11 time zones, it faces the spectre of two brothers in alliance, brothers who control the vast sweep of land which links European and Asian Russia, a prize fiefdom with its rich legacy of nickel, oil and bauxite.

The fact that Mr Lebed, who has raised alarm throughout Russia's political establishment. He has made no secret of his plan to use the job, which gives him a helpful seat

in the Federation Council, as a launching pad for a bid for the highest office.

The tactics of the American campaign trail abound. Mr Lebed, who long ago swapped khaki for cashmere and silk, is supported by spin doctors overseeing a super-slick PR operation.

Their coups include a visit from the French film star Alain Delon, a big star in Russia.

Yesterday Mr Zubov, a former economics professor and Yeltsin loyalist who was a shock in until Mr Lebed entered the fray, counterattacked by wheeling in Russia's female pop diva, Alla Pugachyova. The governor, supported by the Kremlin, is putting up a spirited fight. "Fascists hide behind your back," snapped Mr Zubov in a television debate this week. "I have not used my fist in a long time," retorted Mr Lebed, an ex-boxer who has boasted of breaking the jaws of soldiers who brutalised their juniors.

And that last detail is the principal problem with Mr Lebed. A hero of the Afghan war and broker of a lasting cease-fire in Moldova, he styles himself as a democrat, albeit it one who places a sharp accent on law and order. He talks of encouraging private investment, fighting corruption, and stimulating the market economy.

But his critics, especially in the West, where he is viewed with concern, have not forgotten a tirade in which he called Marijuana "mould and scum", and cited Russia's "rusty missiles" as a response to Nato expansion. Such remarks can be put down to stumping rhetoric. His record, particularly his performance in Chechnya, outshines his sillier outbursts. Yet it is impossible to be absolutely sure that a despot's heart does not beat beneath the soft folds of his charcoal suit.

Reading such a wordy advert is not easy, especially if the person writing it finds it very difficult to put into words exactly what they really sort of mean and they keep using far more words than are absolutely necessary to get the point across quickly and go on and on and on and on about things that are only really interesting to themselves.

And what if the writer starts rambling and ambling with woolly words and nothing he says sense to make seems or maybe he just goes

silent for a few paragraphs. Would you read on, or tell him he's so incredibly funny and take him to the pub where everyone can laugh at him.

Let's be honest, reading takes a little bit of concentration, a smidgen of intelligence and, heaven forbid, time. A telly ad on the other hand is easy to watch and tells you exactly what it means instantly. Why do people like charities write pages and pages of weenie little words about really nasty things when they could just get Tom Cruise saying "Show me the money" – naked. We'd get the point wouldn't we? And it would be a lot less work for us. It's only an advert after all. It's not life and death is it? – well not ours anyway. We don't want to do all that reading, all that hard work, just get to the point.

OK suicide, I want to talk about suicide, now are you going to carry on reading?

(A lot of people just stopped.) But you're prepared to read on and listen. Let's see, yeah I've thought about it, who hasn't? I once thought a great suicide note would be "Things to do today" – be more successful, become a parent, be nicer, get fit, get a conservatory, go on holiday, go mend the tap etc. etc. etc. etc., of course – I knew I couldn't, well wouldn't do any of them, any day – no way José.

So finally I've told you what I want to talk about, sort of. Taken me long enough hasn't it? Why didn't I just put it up front, then you wouldn't have had to listen to all this drivelling on.

But there lies the point and why people like yourselves make good listeners, because they are prepared to put in the effort to "listen".

See, listening properly is just like reading properly, pretending to do them or half doing them doesn't work. If you're thinking about something else you can't read properly, if you take the book down the pub and get pissed you can't read properly, or if you burst into tears and get upset you can't read properly.

Of course you can appear to be reading and listening but in reality it's you that's lost the plot (cracking jokes while someone's trying to confide in you doesn't work either).

No, the ability to listen, like reading has no short cut. It takes effort. It takes patience, and it takes perception, to read between the lines of what's being said. It also takes the brains to know that what's not being said is as important as what is being said, and most of all it takes time.

By now, you've proved you're a good listener. You may be interested to know 16% of men would have told me to snap out of it at paragraph five. 10% of men and women would have simply panicked at paragraph two and 7% of men would have told me to keep my problems to myself.

Statistically speaking, you're also more likely to be a woman (now I know why my wife is so much better at reading books than me) as women find it much easier to talk about their problems because they find it more likely other women will listen to them. Men on the other hand don't expect to be listened to and understood, but joked about, and taken down the pub to forget and fall over. We all know this doesn't help. Neither does being told about all the positive things in your life.

What does help is to really listen, to set aside time to listen, to allow friends to tell you the truth and not play down their problems.

The ability to listen to people in trouble can be the difference between life and death. The Samaritans know this from years and years of experience, but they also know you don't have to be a Samaritan to be a good listener. That's why this year Samaritans Week, which runs from 15th-23rd May, is dedicated to the importance of listening throughout society.

One person in Britain dies by suicide about every 90 minutes. 75% are men. Every 7 seconds someone contacts The Samaritans and every year they receive over 1.5 million silent calls. 55% of young women and 32% of young men have felt that life is not worth living at some stage.

These people are all someone's colleague, neighbour, brother, sister, mother, father or friend. Please take the time to listen to them, use your instinct, if you think someone you know needs help they probably do. Finding that someone actually cares enough to really listen to them really can make the difference between someone choosing life rather than suicide.

Thank you for taking the time to listen.

The Samaritans

The Bombay bombshell

Shobha De's raunchy novels have enraged and titillated India. By Kathy Marks

"HE DREW me close to him and stuck his tongue down my throat. His rough hands were tearing at my blouse, while his knee was still locked between my legs. 'Let's do it standing up,' he said, unzipping his stained jeans."

This is standard fare for readers of the lurid "sex and shopping" novels that dominate the lower end of the popular fiction market. It comes not from the pages of Jackie Collins, though, but from Shobha De, a Bombay-based writer who has shocked polite Indian society with a series of raunchy tales set in her native city.

These homegrown "bonk-busters", with their racy plots, strong language and explicit sex scenes, have proved an overnight publishing sensation, transforming De into India's biggest-selling English-language novelist. But reviewers and commentators are scandalised. Despite being the land of the *Kama Sutra* and erotic temple carvings, modern India – thanks largely to the influence of the British Raj – is distinctly prudish. Hence one critic's denunciation of De as the "princess of porn".

Now De, a former model and gossip columnist, has written her first non-fiction book, *Surviving Men: The Smart Woman's Guide To Staying On Top*. Shortly to be published in Britain, where she has a dedicated following in the Asian community, it is a witty and acerbic analysis of the short-comings of Indian men and, she says, of universal relevance. The book, 27 short chapters

with headings such as *Are Men Moral?*, portrays men as a patchy bunch of creatures, inept in bed, lacking in personal hygiene and easily manipulated.

In London this week to conduct a three-day creative writing workshop, De relates with glee the furious reception that *Surviving Men* was given at home. "Indian men are very thin-skinned, and they're not used to being lampooned," she says. "They take all this as an affront to their masculinity."

"You see, urban Indian women have made great leaps forward, but the men are still living in the 15th century."

write about sex in a manner neither coy nor apologetic. Her debut work, *Socialite Evenings*, a tale of wealth, power and intrigue among the Bombay jet-set, sold 40,000 copies – a huge number, by Indian standards – and led one critic to observe that Penguin India, her publisher, "have decided to put themselves in the service of the country, masturbating the nation".

De, immaculate in a bright turquoise salwar-kameez, shrugs her slim shoulders. "Sex is still a taboo subject in India, although God knows our population figures speak for them-

selves." She denies that she set out to shock – "I didn't want to be a 'literary streaker'" – but clearly enjoys doing so, albeit from her safe vantage point as a member of the moneyed elite.

Born in the state of Maharashtra, De moved to Bombay as a child and, after taking a psychology degree, overcame the opposition of her conservative Brahmin parents to take up a career in modelling. Later, after a stint as an advertising copywriter, she became the founder-editor of *Stardust*, a gossip magazine about the "Bollywood" film industry. The transition to celebrity author was almost accidental; she sat

down to write a non-fiction book about Bombay at the request of Penguin and ended up with *Socialite Evenings*.

De affects weariness with the Indian media's obsession with her glamorous image – neglecting to mention that she exploits that image as part of a highly successful marketing strategy. A portrait of her, posed by a fashion photographer, appears on the dust jacket of all her books, showing off her cool beauty to perfection. De also maintains a high profile through three weekly columns in Indian newspapers in which she doles out provocative

views on love, life and politics.

Her self-promotion machine has also made much of the fact that she moves in the same charmed circles as the tycoons and movie moguls who people her fiction. Indeed, one of her early publicity blurbs boasted that "her private life reads like one of her novels".

In fact, she says, she leads "a disappointingly conventional life". Married to a millionaire shipping magnate who proposed to her within 10 minutes of meeting her, she has six children and writes her books in long-hand on the dining room table of their oceanside penthouse apartment.

The broad appeal of her novels, she believes, lies in their depiction of a modern, urban India that is unknown to most Indians. "They also have an aspirational quality," she says. "Indians are fascinated by Bombay; the city is a magnet. It is deliciously evil and has a tremendous energy, a cutting-edge quality that pushes you to the edge."

She believes that her books reflect the changing nature of male/female relationships in India, where an explosion in job opportunities over the past decade has spawned a new breed of woman: educated, assertive, increasingly prepared to demand her rights in all areas of life including the bedroom.

"My heroines are anything but victims and doormats," says De. "They don't get kicked around and, if they do, they kick right back. In the groin, if at all possible."

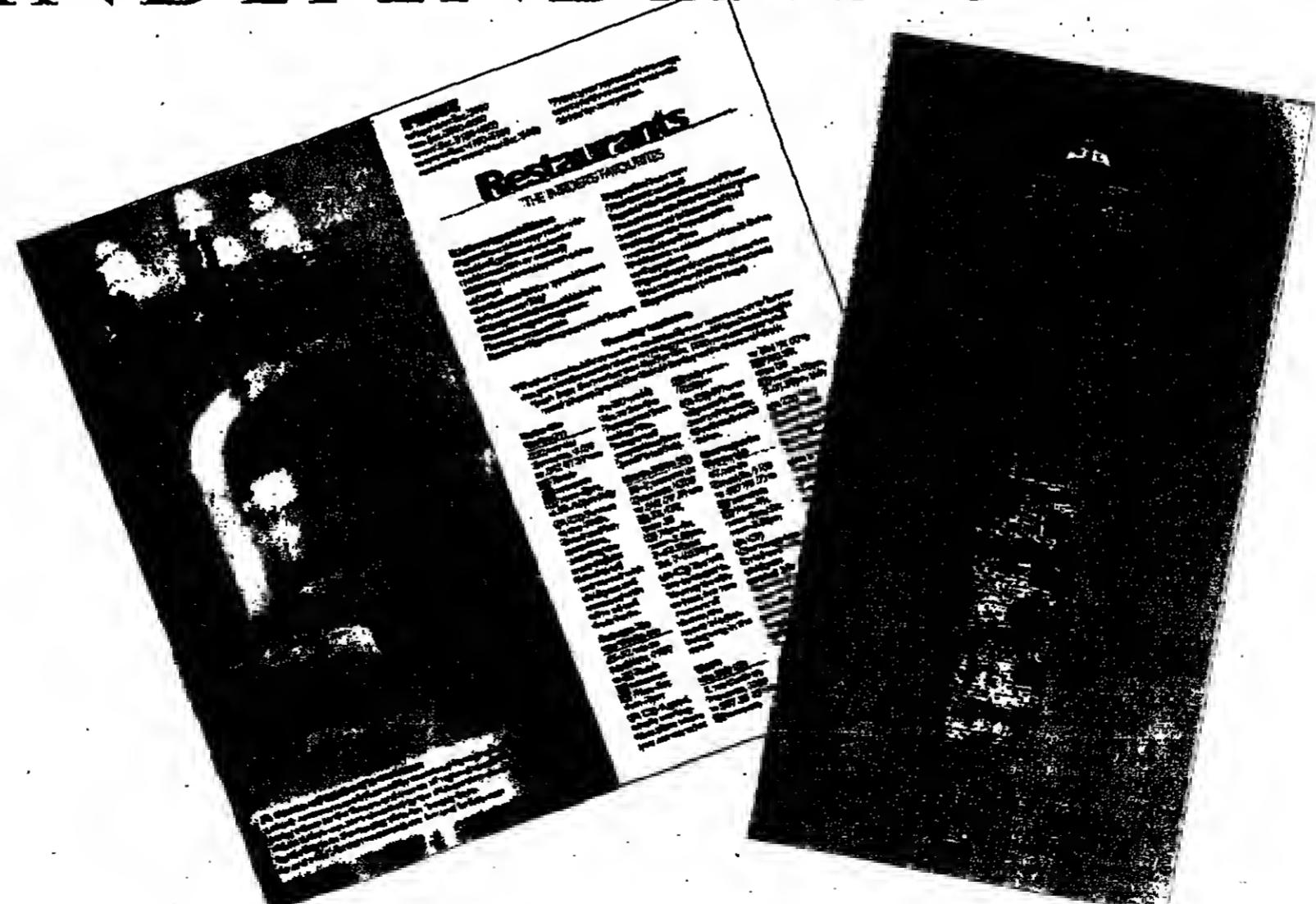


Model-turned-novelist Shobha De has been dubbed the "princess of porn" by critics

Photograph: Kalpesh Ladiga

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INDEPENDENT
ON SUNDAY

Diary of a fast-food junkie

We spend three years of our lives eating, so could a diet of take-aways free up valuable time? Tim Hulse put the theory (and his stomach) to the test

Thursday 7 May
Fast food consumed: 1 Egg McMuffin, 1 Burger King cheeseburger meal, 1 KFC original recipe meal. Rennies indigestion tablets consumed: 4.

8.30am: Article in this morning's paper reveals that, on average, we spend three and a half years of our lives eating. Food for thought? or what? What else might I have done with all that time? Circumnavigated the globe? Written several novels? Maybe even finished painting the shelves in my hallway. The possibilities are endless.

Which is why I find myself in McDonald's chewing on an Egg McMuffin ("chewing" being very much a necessity – if you dropped one of these things, it would bounce). From now on, I'm not going to waste any more time on eating. It's going to be fast food all the way. (Cue imaginary trumpets heralding the dawning of a new, action-packed life.) Uncle Ronald here I come.

Fail to win free hamburger in the McDonald's World Cup Years scratchcard game. Apparently, it was McLaren-Ford who won the Formula 1 Motor Racing Constructors' Championship in 1974. So now I know. Never realised that eating fast food could be educational.

7.30pm: Realise that eating fast food can also be potentially harmful to health. While I'm sitting in the Kilburn branch of Kentucky Fried Chicken, picking over the batter-encrusted skeleton of a dead hen, an unseemly fracas occurs. It ends with a middle-aged customer, undoubtedly the worse for drink, being forcibly ejected onto the street by the manager. "I'm going to close this fuck-

ing place down!" are his final words of bravado as he's hurried out of the door. Eat the remainder of the meal quickly in expectation of hick window. Thankfully it never comes.

Notice uncanny and somewhat unfortunate resemblance between Colonel Sanders and Rolf Harris, cheery host of *Animal Hospital*. Suspect chicken I've just eaten was probably beyond help.

Friday 8 May

Fast food consumed: 1 Big Mac meal, 1 portion of cod and chips at a chippy somewhere in London but I'm not absolutely sure where exactly (look, it was Friday night, okay?). Rennies indigestion tablets consumed: 2.

1.30pm: Beginning to feel like a foreigner in my own country. Partly because English is clearly not the first language of the people who serve me my meals (ditto fellow diners), but mainly because I'm eating fast food on my own, which is something I tend to do abroad.

Fast food restaurants are an anonymous haven for the solitary diner. I know, because I've eaten lonely Big Macs all over the world, from Barcelona to Bangkok and from Houston to Hong Kong. And when you think about it, old Ronald McDonald doesn't seem to have any mates, does he? Which is as it should be, because Ronald is the patron saint of the lonely eater. God bless him.

Fail to win free portion of French fries by not knowing that Lionel Richie's Top 10 hit in 1982 was "Truly". Could have sworn it was "All Night Long".

Saturday 9 May

Fast food consumed: 1 quarter-

pounder with cheese meal at tourist trap on Oxford Street, 1 chicken shawarma with haloumi cheese, 1 plate of chicken liver and 1 spinach samosa-type thing at Beirut Express, Edgware Road. Rennies consumed: 4.

1.45pm: Make mental list of strange things I have eaten in my life:

locust
crickets
alligator
kangaroo
ostrich
guinea pig
Pot Noodle

All of them were preferable to the glistening ball of grease served up to me at a place called American Burger, its only claim to fame being that it sells "The Best Value Burger In Town". And even that isn't true.

To be honest, all this fast food is beginning to get me down a bit. I daydream continually of lazy hours spent in some local trattoria with waiters brandishing giant pepper mills as I bore my dinner companion rigid with my favourite story of how I nearly died from an infected blister. (An epic saga full of drama and pathos – remind me to tell you about it, old Ronald.) And I'm constantly beset by images of the kinds of food I've now renounced – piquant, summery things like sun-dried tomatoes and olives, and slow, time-consuming things like sausages that have gently been fried in a lovely, black crisp...

And my social life is suffering somewhat. Friends tend to react rather badly when they invite me for dinner and I have to say no, because I'm going to McDonald's. Amazing how narrow-minded some people can be.

they went overboard with the vegetable matter.

It was a close call and had to be decided on a ketchup tiebreaker. In the end, the jury (me) voted the Big Mac the winner, simply because the accompanying ketchup came in a little pot, making chip-dipping simple. Burger King provide sachets, which means you have to squeeze the ketchup into a dollop on your tray. Most inconvenient. As Saint Ronald knows, God is in the details.

Sunday 10 May

Fast food consumed: 1 Big Mac meal, 1 Big K meal. Rennies consumed: 6.

7.30pm: On day that football Premiership reaches its climax, have decided to stage the Burgham equivalent: the Big Mac versus its new upstart challenger, Burger King's Big K. The ultimate head-to-head!

Having now sampled both, I can announce that the Big K scores highly on texture, making the Big Mac seem a little slimy in comparison. (Heresy! May Saint Ronald forgive me.) However, the Big K bun fell apart and, as usual with Burger King,

meaning, in that I feel like my insides are packed full of 100 per cent pure fat.

Have also become obsessed with memory of newspaper story which described the cleaning of a sewer somewhere in the West End. Apparently the amount of congealed fat removed was equivalent in volume to that of a double-decker bus. Suspect my arteries currently contain a similar amount.

6.45pm: Gin for drink with a friend. Take advantage of evening sunshine and sit outside the pub. Friend draws attention to the large number of flies buzzing over my every pore. Worry that life is turning into a tacky horror film starring myself as The Burger Thing – Half Person, Half Pattie. (In the bathroom, no one can hear you scream...)

Tuesday 12 May

Fast food consumed: 1 veggie Whopper meal, 1 McDonald's vegetable Deluxe meal. Rennies consumed: 2. Time spent on toilet: 15 minutes.

7.30am: An equation seems to have come into effect which dictates that the more time I spend eating fast food, the longer I spend in the bathroom, bug-eyed and straining to eject it from my system. Clearly something has to be done.

1.30pm: Lunch with veggie friend, who introduces me to the questionable delights of the veggie Whopper. It has a strange, curry-like taste, but she reckons it will sort out my little "problem". This evening I'm going to try the McDonald's version.

7pm: Severe flatulence. Have become walking embodiment of *Viz* character Johnny Pantaloons. But at least I now know that the planet Pluto was discovered in the World Cup year of 1930.

covered in the World Cup year of 1930.

Wednesday 13 May
Fast food consumed: 0. Rennies consumed: 0.

I can't face it any longer. In the past six days, I've eaten nine burgers of one kind or another and 11 portions of chips. Just the smell, even the thought, of a fast food restaurant is now enough to make me feel sick. So it's back to good old slow food from today.

Cold food. Wet food. Food that isn't greasy. Food that doesn't have a catchy name and a silly slogan. Food that doesn't come on a tray and isn't accompanied by the latest chart hits.

Sorry, Ronald. I did my best, but I think we're going to have to call it a day. I'd rather spend my life eating.



Tim Hulse chows down on the last burger of his junk-food trial. Maxi-pack of Rennies not pictured

Photograph: Edward Webb

A strange marriage even if the price is right

It could be a wedding tailor-made for the tabloids, but have James Major and Emma Noble got a lot to learn about love? By Virginia Ironside



Conservative couple...

NO ONE in their right minds gets engaged after only knowing each other for only three months. So is the engagement between John Major's son, James, and former topless model, Emma Noble, the act of obsessive sexual madness? It could be true love, of course, or is it, as seems more likely, a publicity stunt with about much substance to it as the recently bruited idea that Chris Evans is Antenna Turner's new love?

It may sound cynical, but you can't get away from the fact that James is hoping to set up his own nightclub and, as we all know, many entrepreneurs will stop at nothing to get publicity for their ventures. Emma, on the other hand, was at the time of their meeting a hostess of Bruce Forsyth's *The Price is Right* TV game show, and makes no bones about her ambition to be a TV presenter. When she first met him she was reported as saying: "This looks like a great photo-opportunity."

And you only have to look at photographs of them together to suspect that things just don't look right. Most people

engaged in be married prefer dignified pictures of themselves looking as though they are embarking on a lifetime adventure. They don't get themselves snogged on a sofa, she (who says she is 24 but is, in fact, nearly 27) in a bright pink dress, all strings, cleavage (enhanced last year), and little else except leopard-skin high heels, he in trendy white T-shirt and cool jeans. To me, they don't look like a couple in love; they look like a couple on the make.

Miss Noble has told how she and James are hurt by the stories that have cropped up about their relationship. She said: "We know the truth, our friends and our family know the truth." James has attacked the liars who have spread the gossip saying: "There's a lot of lies that have been printed but we all know the truth and just ignore it." And what of the parents? They are "delighted" of course. But what else could they say? I bet underneath it all Norma is chewing her nails and rather wishing her son could find someone more serious to

settle down with. Emma's father said it was "fantastic news". But I bet he wants his daughter's happiness at heart and must wonder if this is really the way to get it.

Recently, Antenna Turner – another C-list celebrity – went off with Grant Bovey, a businessman with three children. His wife, Della, didn't take it lying down. The whole affair generated huge publicity for all three protagonists, and now, after enormous coverage, including 14 pages in *OK!* after the couple's reconciliation. Ms Turner's profile is even higher, and Mrs Bovey is, wait for it... to host her own TV show. Was that just a publicity stunt? Who knows, but it certainly made the Boveys financially better-off. Similarly, her association with James has done Emma no harm at the bank. What are we to make of all this? Using affairs, marriage and divorce as mere publicity stunts is fine, as long as no one else gets hurt. But sometimes one always does.

Often there are children, parents and grandparents to consider. As members of an older or a younger generation they may believe in marriage and not imagine that anyone could use it cynically. And using marriage and engagement as some kind of public relations tool doesn't do society any good either. It demeans the very ceremonies that are its mainstay. Marriage is about love, relationships, children, and commitment. It shouldn't be used to further people's careers and get them more publicity and cash.

True, the pair may be genuinely in love, but if not there is something truly repulsive about using the build-up to a service and commitment that many people feel is blessed by God, for your own commercial ends. I give their engagement a couple of months. And if I'm wrong, I give their marriage no more than a year. One can only hope they don't have children or, if they do, they won't use them in more self-serving photo-opportunities – as the Boveys did in *OK!* If the pair had any dignity, they would ban all pictures and interviews from now on. Fat chance.



... not so conservative couple

Photograph: Steve Finn/Alpha

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'Ethics' didn't help in Indonesia

IT IS HARD to believe that, as he returns to find his capital city in chaos, President Suharto of Indonesia will be able to change the mood of a people who seem determined not only to overthrow him, but to unleash violence on the sizeable Chinese population of the country. Order has broken down in Indonesia and it is difficult to see what Suharto or the West can now do to rescue matters. It is, though, much simpler to identify the failures in policy that led us to this pass.

Suharto has been a despotic, brutal and neoplastic leader for most of his time in power. When he took power in 1965 in similarly bloody circumstances (400,000 Chinese died in the riots then) he became leader of what could still easily be described as an "under-developed nation", a mere "domino" in America's cold war against Communism. Today the Indonesian economy, even after the crash last autumn, is one of the most important in the region and indeed the world. But Suharto outlived his usefulness years ago and we should have encouraged him to follow his stated ambition to become a sage, before his people forced matters for us. We are now faced with the worst of all worlds.

The Americans are said to be embarrassed about their failure of intelligence about the Indian nuclear test explosions. At least these were underground. The build-up in tension in Indonesia has been distressingly visible and yet far less was done for this nation than was done, for example, to rescue South Korea. This is not to say that we should have had the IMF bail out Suharto. It is to say that he should have been provided with incentives and penalties to liberalise his country in return for stabilising her economy.

Britain is not a big player in this part of the world, but we do have some influence through our substantial arms trade. Our policy has been short-sighted and made all the more incomprehensible by the Government's impractical posturing about its "ethical" foreign policy. We know now that more than 50 batches of British arms have been sold to Indonesia since Labour came to power. It is not clear whether these weapons have been used to suppress internal dissent, to deny human rights and to defy international law in East Timor. But that is a secondary issue. The primary query is why we, a nation which allegedly runs an ethical policy, were doing this kind of business with a dictator like Suharto without securing some real progress on the ethical agenda. The West backed Suharto far too wholeheartedly for far too long and failed to dislodge him quickly and effectively. If we had we might have ensured an orderly transition to a more democratic regime.

So we have to face up to our share of the blame for the brutality and ethnic cleansing that is threatening Indonesia. Let us hope that our next steps in foreign policy are uncomplicated by the pretensions of the ethical doctrine.

Too little, too late to stop virtual monopoly

YOU COULD be reading these words on the Internet, at the website address above, in which case the chances are you got here by using a piece of software called Internet Explorer. Or you may be one of the majority of the population of Britain who have never used a computer, in which case you might be forgiven for thinking that the threatened court case concerning Explorer in the United States is irrelevant. It is not. The Internet, the world-wide web of computers linked by telephone lines, increasingly forms the basis of the "weightless" economy which will determine our prosperity in the future. Already, one corporation has built a position of unchallengeable dominance over this virtual infrastructure.

Microsoft, headed by Bill Gates, has pursued that trajectory so familiar to capitalism's creative innovation, dazzling success, wealth beyond dreams and, finally, attempted monopoly. As technological change accelerates, Mr Gates has followed this path unusually quickly. How we cheered when he outwitted and outdid IBM, the previous dominant player, which had grown fat and monopolistic itself. How we admired the entrepreneurial skill with which he built up his company and brought high-powered computing within reach of millions. But how we began to grow doubtful when Mr Gates started to abuse his dominant position in operating systems (the basic software which runs computers) to lever himself into a dominant position in related markets.

First came the irritating quirks which we suspected, but could not prove, were deliberately introduced to make Microsoft programs incompatible with competitors' software. Then the Internet started to expand and Mr Gates, wrongfooted by this change, used his market muscle to catch up. Nine-tenths of the world's personal computers are already sold with his Windows software, so he decided to give away Internet Explorer free as part of the package. Explorer is a "browser" program, the gizmo you need to get on the Internet and find your way around. It is not as good as Netscape Navigator, but it works and it is free - so who is complaining? Well, consumers save money in the short term, just as they do when Rupert Murdoch sells his newspapers at below cost price. But if competitors are driven out of business, then we all lose out in the end - as we have seen countless times before, once a monopoly is established, prices rise to exploit it.

Now it looks as if the threat of legal action has forced Microsoft to offer concessions, but although American standards are much tougher on such anti-competitive practices as ours, we suspect they will still be too little, too late. The Competition Bill going through Parliament here is long overdue, but already out of date. On both sides of the Atlantic we need much faster responses to the likes of Gates and Murdoch. We need a "trust-buster" able to stop dodges like the free Explorer bundle as soon as they are spotted and then force dominant companies to prove they are acting in the public interest.

Meanwhile, if you are on the Net, why not go to www.netscape.com and download a copy of Navigator, which is now also free, and use that instead? Strike a small blow for consumer choice.



Labour's union link

Sir: Anne McElvoy is right to argue that New Labour has little time for the unions (Comment, 12 May). However, the concept that the Labour Party would be more democratic without them is false. The union link needs to be democratised and modernised, but only anti-democratic forces have any interest in breaking the link.

The Party's internal democracy is already weakened by an increasingly arrogant and powerful centralised élite, and the removal of the unions would only enhance the power of Millbank. If there is not to be a complete takeover by professional politicians, with all the abuse of power implicit in that, then alternative sources of pressure and funding need to be available. This is the more so because the decline in union funding (which is in itself welcome) has been replaced by photocopier funding. It is no accident that Bernie Ecclestone's cheque was replaced by one from the owner of Planet Hollywood.

TREVOR FISHER
Stafford

Sir: Anne McElvoy should focus on the real issues: the only time the union link is broken is in the columns of fashionable journalists. It does not register with the vast majority of ordinary Labour Party members.

Nor does it reflect the fact that without unions such as the AEEU (Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union), there would be no New Labour. When Labour was heading off towards political oblivion, unions worked to bring the party back to reality. Throughout the 1980s, the AEEU pushed for OMOV (one member, one vote), the expulsion of Militant and an end to unilateralism. Unions have as much to gain from leaving Labour now as we did when Labour was facing extinction. We are one family and we're sticking together.

KEN JACKSON
General Secretary, Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union
Bromley, Kent

Sir: I think the Government's re-

ported idea that trade union membership should not be recognised unless at least 40 per cent of the entire workforce votes for it, is an excellent one.

Indeed, it is so compellingly excellent that I am even now eagerly waiting for the Government to announce that the same percentage is being applied to all referendums, general elections, by-elections, local elections, elections of MEPs, elections to the Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly, Northern Ireland Council, and anything else that may have slipped my mind at the moment, so that unless a referendum proposal or candidate receives the approval of at least 40 per cent of all registered voters, the vote is invalid.

In addition, no vote in the House of Commons or the House of Lords should count unless passed by at least 40 per cent of the entire membership of that House. I then expect the Government to declare that no business in either House can be conducted unless a quorum of 40 per cent of the membership is present and each member shown to be at least 40 per cent aware.

Logical conclusion demands no less.

RALPH ESTLING
Ilminster, Somerset

Ulster conundrum

Sir: If the Protestants (Unionists) in Northern Ireland vote for the so-called Good Friday Agreement they will be voting with Sinn Féin, the IRA, and the SDLP.

If the Catholics (nationalists and republicans) vote for the agreement they will be voting for the Ulster Unionist Party and for the sectarian extremists of the Ulster Defence Association and the Ulster Volunteer Force.

If the Catholics vote against the agreement they will be voting with

Paisley, the Orange Order, and the sectarian extremists of the Loyalist Volunteer Force.

If the Protestants vote against the agreement they will be voting with the republican extremists of the Continuity IRA.

What sort of choices are these to put before decent, peaceful people?

What kind of an "agreement" have Tony Blair, Mo Mowlam, and Senator George Mitchell concocted?

ANDREW BOYD
Newtownabbey, Co Antrim

Genetic patents

Sir: Recent moves by the European Parliament to adopt the fundamentally flawed Legal Protection of Biotechnological Inventions Directive (report, 13 May) are worrying,

to say the least.

This Directive blurs the line further between what constitutes an invention and a discovery, at a time when ethical considerations should be at the forefront of decision-making. Sadly, it seems such considerations come a distant second to the profiteering of industry.

People have the right to be asked before samples are taken from their bodies and patented. Under this Directive, that right will not exist.

Genetic modification of animals is one of the fastest growing areas of animal experimentation in the UK. In 1996, over 300,000 procedures involving genetically manipulated animals were carried out - an increase of 525 per cent since 1990.

This Directive will give the go-ahead for yet more experiments with disposable nappies. I costed two dozen good-quality towelling nappies, with two buckets, sanitising powder and washing costs for two years. This total equated to the cost of disposable nappies for 16 weeks. I would urge all mothers to consider using traditional nappies for both environmental and economic reasons.

HELEN WOOLLEY
Sheffield

Sir: Before our son was born, nearly seven years ago, I undertook a cost-benefit analysis of traditional versus

disposable nappies. I costed two dozen good-quality towelling nappies, with nobody voted for.

NORMAN BAKER MP
(Lewes, Lib Dem)
House of Commons
London SW1

The writer is Liberal Democrat
Genetic Engineering Spokesperson

Sir: James Mustoe, in his letter about "super-genes" (13 May) says that the female élite are the "prettiest girls", whereas the male élite are the "cleverest boys". How long will it take for the message to get through? My wife, who is a clever woman, and I are losing hope...

TIM BARRACLOUGH
London SE13

Real nappies

Sir: Ani Harris (letter, 9 May) asks just how "clean" reusable nappies are.

The "vile chemical" we use to sanitise our reusable is that scourge of the environment, vinegar (as recommended by the manufacturers). The "amazing temperature" we wash them at is 60 degrees and on average we do five half-loads every two weeks. If the weather is fine we bang them outside, otherwise they're in the airing cupboard (we don't have a tumble drier). Hardly an environmental disaster.

DAVID SHIRKLIFF
Loughborough, Leicestershire

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disposable nappies. I costed two dozen good-quality towelling nappies, with two buckets, sanitising powder and washing costs for two years. This total equated to the cost of disposable nappies for 16 weeks. I would urge all mothers to consider using traditional nappies for both environmental and economic reasons.

HELEN WOOLLEY
Sheffield

Sir: Stephen Plowden takes a typi-

cally London-centred view.

The tunnel links not London to Europe, and should not be considered finished until there are fast links from all parts of Britain. I look forward to the day when Paris is not three hours from London but five from Newcastle.

JAMES MURPHY
Consett, Co Durham

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Bert Gough

"NO BAIRNS in Fife will have empty bellies." In the most fraught days of the 1984 miners' strike, these eight words reverberated round not only the coalfields, the innumerable, mushrooming mining support groups, but up and down the land. The words were those of Bert Gough, Convenor of Fife Regional Council from 1978 to 1996, a longer span than anyone has had recently at the head of a major local authority.

South of Hadrian's Wall – or at least south of the Wash – people, Downing Street insiders, pundits, all express themselves perplexed that the Scots should be so disaffected and disdainful of New Labour. Part of the explanation lies in the widespread belief that there is a heck of a lot that is estimable in Old Labour. The life – "career" would be a misplaced word – of Bert Gough is an epitome of old, possibly ancient Labour with many concomitant virtues.

Gough was a man of power in the Kingdom of Fife for four decades. Until his pit closed and he became a Co-Operative Insurance agent he would very likely for the first three decades come to a meeting straight from a hard night shift at the Wellesley pit. His Old Labour quality was enshrined in passionate beliefs. "Down the pit we did not take money to the disadvantage of our fellow men. That is also the way that Fife Council will work." He led a council and a region which, despite an overwhelming one-party Labour majority for many years, was never tainted with sleaze or impropriety.

Gordon Brown, the Chan-

cellor of the Exchequer, was one of Gough's political sons. Brown recalls affectionately, "Bert had a unique way of speaking – for example he would say, 'Inasmuch as I am the convenor of Fife Regional Council we will treat the elderly and the disabled as royalty as we can' – which meant that he pioneered free travel for those within entitlement to concessionary fares.

Gough vehemently believed that the elderly should not be cooped up in their homes. And he was the driving force behind the first introduction in Britain of free concessionary travel for senior citizens. The present Chancellor admires Gough not only for his pioneering ideas but also that for 20 years he sustained them by, in the most difficult circumstances, renegotiating free travel with the bus companies.

At my last lunch with him in his headquarters at Glenrothes he pointedly asked me, "Does New Labour believe that we should be our brother's keeper?" I ducked that one and went off at a tangent. With a twinkle in his eye, which could be steely, he directly remarked, "Come on, Tam, you changed the subject."

He was enormously shrewd and when John Markland, the council's current Chief Executive, asked Gough what he made of the Shadow Employment Secretary, Tony Blair MP, on a visit to Fife in the early 1990s he got the laconic answer, "That boy Blair will be Prime Minister one day."

Born in East Wemyss in 1924, Bert Gough went to the village school, left on his 14th birthday and was down the

Wellesley pit in neighbouring Buckhaven the next morning.

His father was active in the NUM branch and in his late teens Gough was given trade union and Labour Party responsibilities. Unlike most of his contemporaries in Fife he resisted the attractions of the Moffat brothers Willie Gallacher and the Communist Party.

In 1956, Gough was elected to the Buckhaven and Methil Town Council, a conspicuously talented local authority having



Gough, centre, with Mick McGahey, left, and Arthur Scargill at a miners' rally at Lochgelly, Fife, in 1981

Wellesley pit in neighbouring Buckhaven the next morning.

Amongst its members John McArthur, David Proudfit and Andrew Goodwillie. In innumerable elections over the next 40 years defeat was unknown to him; he won them all, because, in the words of Lord Ewing (the former MP Harry Ewing), everybody recognised his worth.

I first met Gough in 1966 when he had just become the youngest Provost ever of Buckhaven and Methil and was among a local authority delegation to Westminster. No one ar-

gued the case for educational spending more eloquently and he it was in the council who gave the financial backing to Douglas McIntosh in creating half a dozen technical colleges in Fife.

As Henry McLeish, now Minister of State at the Scottish Office, puts it, Gough, with his supportive wife, Margaret, championed the cause of Fife's remaining as a Kingdom during local government reform in the 1970s and acted as a wonderful ambassador for Fife.

The late Hamish Dunlop, the former Chief Executive, apprehensive about the force of Convenor Gough's crunching handshake, entreated him at a royal visit in 1982 to press the Queen's hand gently. He did.

Tam Dalyell

Robert Gough, coalminer and politician, born East Wemyss, Fife 1 August 1924; Convenor, Fife Regional Council 1978-96; CBE 1990; married 1945 Margaret Annet (two sons); died Kirkcaldy, Fife 11 May 1998.

Godfrey Kenton

GODFREY KENTON made his last appearance on the stage in 1936, but it was the 1937 Stratford season that brought him to real prominence – his parts included Oberon, Edgar to Randle Ayrton's *Lear*, and Laertes to the Hamlet of his contemporary Donald Wolfit, who was also playing Kent in *King Lear*. This became, after the Second World War, Wolfit's most admired role, and Kenton always maintained that many very touching details and general "business" were copied by Wolfit from Ayrton's great performance.

Originally intended for a career in the Church, he duly studied for at theological college. However, the lure of the theatre was too strong and I doubt that he ever regretted his decision. Despite a career that had as many lows as highs in it, he must have been outstandingly handsome in his youth, for he maintained his good looks almost to the end of his life – at the age of nearly 90, he was still in fine fettle and looked at least 25 years younger.

After a period of study at Rada, and the usual round of small parts, he joined Lena Ashwell's company for two years as leading juvenile. He was with the Stratford-upon-Avon Festival company for two seasons in 1925 and 1926 playing second juvenile leads – these were still the days when actors were engaged to play a recognised "line" of parts, so that, if *As You Like It* was in the repertory, you knew that, as second juvenile, you would be playing Sibyls and not Orlando.

Shakespeare, in fact, became the central passion of Kenton's professional life, and it would seem from his listings in *Who's Who in the Theatre* that he rarely turned down an opportunity to appear in any of the plays. It is worth noting that to have a specific career as a Shakespearean actor is not an option in the English theatre of the 1990s.

He appeared at the Old Vic in 1930 as Malcolm to John Gielgud's Macbeth and as Fenner in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. He was Orsini in *Twelfth Night* at the gala opening of the rebuilt Sadler's Wells, and was therefore the first actor to speak in the new theatre. But, only two years later, the inconstancies of the actor's life forced him to accept the small part of Poins in *Henry IV part I* with George Robey as Falstaff, at His Majesty's. In between these

the premiere of Rodney Ackland's fine play *After October* in 1936, but it was the 1937 Stratford season that brought him to real prominence – his parts included Oberon, Edgar to Randle Ayrton's *Lear*, and Laertes to the Hamlet of his contemporary Donald Wolfit, who was also playing Kent in *King Lear*. This became, after the Second World War, Wolfit's most admired role, and Kenton always maintained that many very touching details and general "business" were copied by Wolfit from Ayrton's great performance.

Two months after the war started in 1939, Kenton played Brutus in a well-received modern dress production of *Julius Caesar* at the Embassy and His Majesty's. The Stratford season of 1940 saw him as Romeo, Mark Antony and Orsino, after which he joined the BBC for the duration of the war. He joined the Donald Wolfit Shakespeare company as the war was ending and toured all over the country.

Even Wolfit's sympathetic biographer, Roald Harwood, likened the atmosphere in the company to that of a concentration camp, but, according to Kenton, he was more or less left to get on with it, and he soon accustomed himself to the Stygian gloom allotted to the supporting company by the actor-manager. It was, at least, Shakespeare.

He much enjoyed a trip to New York to appear with Robert Morley in *Edward, My Son* in 1948 – this was his second visit as he had made his debut on Broadway in 1938, as Alan, the sensitive son, in J.B. Priestley's *Time and the Conways*. Shortly after his return, he joined the BBC Drama Repertory Company, and devoted much of the latter part of his career to broadcasting – he was still appearing occasionally in radio plays well into his nineties.

He was on the "Rep" for three two-year periods, plus three years with the BBC Schools "Rep". He also did a great deal of freelance broadcasting between his periods of full employment, and returned to the theatre whenever opportunities allowed. He played Solanio in *The Merchant of Venice* at the Haymarket in 1967 with Ralph Richardson, always one of his favourite actors, as Sbylock.

But it was his voice that became his fortune, and he must have appeared in literally hundreds of radio plays. It was a beautiful voice with a very distinctive gravity in its tone, and his use of it was masterly. I don't believe that I ever heard (or saw) him give an unconsidered or undistinguished performance. He took his work far too seriously for that.

Godfrey Kenton was, in truth, a model professional actor. I can think of no higher praise.

Richard Babb

Godfrey William Kenton, actor: born London 13 April 1902; married first Vivienne Bennett (marriage dissolved), second Mary Whifford (two sons; marriage dissolved), third Ann Broadhurst (one son, one daughter; marriage dissolved); died London 27 April 1998.

Kenton: Shakespearean

London appearances, he did seasons with the Birmingham and Northampton repertory companies and two Malvern Festivals, where the new plays of George Bernard Shaw were tried out. He appeared in the world premiere of Shaw's *The Simplon of the Unexpected Isles* and as Tom Wren in *Arthur Piner's Ireland of the "Wells"*.

A notable appearance was in

Sebastian Poulter



Poulter: pathbreaking

SEBASTIAN POULTER was the leading British academic in the field of the law relating to ethnic minority customs. This followed naturally from his early work on the legal system of Lesotho.

Appointed to a lectureship in law at Southampton in 1972, he rose steadily up the academic ladder to a senior lectureship in 1981 and a readership in 1989. At the time of his death, he was on the verge of being awarded a personal chair. His substantial list of publications during this period included *Family Law and Litigation in Basotho Society* (1976), *English Law and Ethnic Minority Customs* (1986), *Asian Traditions*

This last book demonstrat-

ed his perceptive ability to analyse particular social problems in their legal context, to bring them a creative and critical insight and to give legal theory a practical application. The book, a testament to his life's work, explores the policies and principles which should govern legal responses to ethnic diversity in contemporary Britain.

Poulter's recognised pre-eminence in the field led to his co-authorship of the *Report of the Runnymede Commission on Islamophobia* (1997) and to work advising the Commission for Racial Equality on the legal aspects of religious discrimination.

He had a co-ventional middle-class upbringing in post-

war Britain, being educated at the Dragon School, Oxford, Repton and Trinity College, Oxford. The seeds for his future career were sown in his "year out" as a VSO secondary school teacher in Swaziland in 1960. The southern African connection was renewed with his appointment in 1967 as lecturer (later senior lecturer) in law at the University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland. His early publications on Lesotho's legal structure were recognised as pathbreaking work.

He returned to Lesotho in 1977 for a two-year secondment as Professor and Head of Department. His reputation for fairness and impartiality led to

the onerous and in his words "fearful" task of chairing the Government Pardoos Committee advising on the exercise of the prerogative of mercy.

Sebastian Poulter was the embodiment of the essential link between teaching and research in a top-class university. As well as his specialist course in the law relating to ethnic minority customs, he fashioned a distinctive family law course at Southampton. His 1979 article in the *Modern Law Review* on the definition of marriage in English law remains a seminal piece. He was an extraordinarily dedicated teacher who invariably scored very highly on course evaluation questionnaires.

At Southampton he served for eight years as Undergraduate Admissions Tutor and co-authored the department's two internal reviews. Most significantly, he was one of the architects of the Law Faculty's success in the 1996 Research Assessment Exercise when it achieved the recognition of a Grade 5 ranking for research excellence.

David Jackson and Nick Wilekey

Sebastian Murray Poulter, legal scholar; born Abingdon, Berkshire 12 August 1942; Lecturer in Law, Southampton University 1972-81; Senior Lecturer 1981-89; Reader 1989-98; married 1972 Jane Bonn; died 3 April 1998.

Hermann Lenz

HERMANN LENZ explained in an interview in 1978 that for him literature was a possibility of finding himself. He also worked on the principle, "You can only know your own truth and not one valid for all." Despite this existentialist standpoint he was celebrated towards the end of his life as a chronicler of German life and times.

Born in Stuttgart, Baden-Württemberg, in 1913 into a middle-class family, Lenz studied art history, archaeology, German and theology in Tübingen, Heidelberg and Munich. Brought up in an extreme na-

tionalist home, he said later he could not understand his father's passion. He did not, however, attempt to contradict him. He welcomed the restoration of German unity in 1990 but in a quiet way.

Lenz saw action in the infantry in the Second World War serving in France and on the Eastern Front, experiences that subsequently influenced his work. He returned to his "beloved" Stuttgart in 1946, where he married.

He had started writing before the war, publishing several short stories and poems. He

broke military regulations by writing during his wartime service. His first post-war work was *Das stillle Haus* ("The Quiet House"), published in 1947. In 1949 *Das doppelte Gesicht* ("The Double Face") appeared. In the first, the outer democratic world of hatred, destruction and insanity is contrasted with the order of the inner world. Both novels display a dreamlike quality in response to the world and its problems.

These early works seemed to put Lenz on the road to success with other writers of his generation like Heinrich Böll. But he

was to be disappointed. His literary activities did not enable him to support himself and he worked from 1951 to 1971 as secretary of the South German writers' association.

Despite this existence as a functionary he did not see himself as a political animal, nor as a political writer like Böll, Günter Grass, Hans Werner Richter or his namesake, Siegfried Lenz, with whom he is occasionally confused. He got neither the publicity nor the literary acclaim they received in the 1950s and 1960s. He continued writing and in 1959 *Der*

russische Regenbogen ("The Russian Rainbow") was praised for its penetrating psychological insights and lyrical language. In 1967 Lenz seemed to break new ground with *Spiegelblätter* ("Mirror Cottage") with its element of "magical realism". These contributed later to his retrospective observations of the decaying middle class. However, it was in the 1970s that he first achieved overwhelming success for his *Schwäbische Chronik* ("Swabian Chronicle") featuring an *alter ego*, the fictional writer Eugen Rapp.

He defended this play as giving him greater freedom to write about himself. Rapp first appeared in *Abandoned Room* in 1966 and survived nine volumes, the last of which, *Freunde* ("Friends"), appeared last year. These books brought Lenz fame as a "chronicler of our century" and literary prizes followed. He was recognized abroad and was translated into Spanish, French and Italian – but not yet English.

David Childs

Hermann Lenz, writer; born Stuttgart 26 February 1913; married; died Munich 12 May 1998.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS

SAUNDERS: On Monday 11 May, to Susan Payne and William Henderson, a son, James Ralph, at St George's, Tooting.

DEATHS

SAUNDERS: On 10 May 1998, at Emmanuel Care Centre, London, his wife, Dorothy, and his son, Bill, and his daughters, Kate, Eddy, and Charlotte, and his grandchildren, Tom, George, Felix and Ella. Funeral, 18 May, from St Mary Brookfield, Dartmouth Park Road, London NW5. Enquiries 0171-285 4672.

SMITH: Mrs Edie Mary of Walton-on-Thames, died at Walton Hospital on 11 May 1998, aged 72, after a long illness. Funeral, 13 May, from St Mary's Church, Walton-on-Thames. Two sons, a daughter and a brother.

WILSON: On 13 May, at the Royal Hotel, David Wilson, St Helier, Jersey, and his wife, Patricia, and his son, Alan. Funeral, 15 May, from St Helier. Two sons, a daughter and a brother.

BIRTHS

ALLISON: On Monday 11 May, to Sir James Baddeley, biochemist, 80; Sir William Sastry, former chairman, Ford Motor Co, 85; Mr David London, former Director, International Monetary Fund, 67; Dame Barbara Charles, former prime minister of Dominica, 70; Mr Ted Dexter, former England cricket captain, 65; Mr Brian Eno, rock musician and composer, 45; Mr Sir David Gough, ambassador to India, 55; Mr Richard Hough, author, 76; Mr John Lanchbery, conductor and ballet composer, 78; Miss Barbara Lott, singer and guitarist, 45; Professor Philip Reynolds, former Vice-Chancellor, Lancaster University, 78; Mr Anthony Shaffer, playwright, 72; Mr Peter Shaffer, playwright, 72; Mr Peter Smith, High Commissioner to Lesotho, 56; Mr Neil Stacey, actor, 57; Mr Ralph Steadman, cartoonist, 62; Professor Sir Eric Stroud, paediatrician, 74; Sir David Tippett, former government minister, 52.

ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHS: Lyman Frank Baum, author of *The Wizard of Oz*, 1856; Frank Horvat, inventor of "Mecano", 1863; Edwin Muir, poet and trans-

BIRTHS

ALLISON: Regina v Bow Street Magistrate's Court, ex parte Allison; Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Kennedy and Mr Justice Balfour) 13 May 1998.

IN THE CASE

of a request for extradition made by the Government of the United States, of the magistrate's decision not to commit on the first two offences, and the applicant, by proceedings for *habeas corpus*, sought to set aside the commitment on the third offence, and another commitment on unrelated offences connected with the State of Maryland.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

23/BUSINESS

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR, JEREMY WARNER
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Chancellor seeks to tackle Britain's productivity gap

By Michael Harrison

THE CHANCELLOR of the Exchequer yesterday hinted that his next Budget could include fresh incentives to encourage more investment by industry after a damning report showing that British productivity lags that of the US by 40 per cent.

Launching an initiative to tackle the productivity gap at a Downing Street seminar, Gordon Brown indicated that incentives for capital investment, skills development programmes and increased support for entrepreneurs were all on the agenda.

Treasury and Department of Trade and Industry officials later said that a range of measures to build on the corporate tax reforms set out in the last Budget were under examination.

The initiative follows a report to the Government from the US management consultants McKinsey showing that as well as lagging far behind American productivity standards, Britain was also at least 20 per cent behind Germany.

The report identifies Britain's inferior level of capital investment as one of the causes of its poor record on labour pro-

ductivity against competitor nations, including even the French, where industry is saddled with high social costs of employment.

Mr Brown and his officials strongly contested suggestions that introducing a national minimum wage would hamper the drive to improve competitiveness, pointing out that the US had a minimum wage for many years.

But one of the authors of the report, Bill Lewis of the McKinsey Global Institute, pointed out that the US minimum wage was set at about half the level of those

in Germany and France and affected few employers because wages had risen so strongly.

The McKinsey analysis shows that in some sectors, such as the car industry, the UK's labour productivity is half that of the Japanese and 20 per cent below the US. In the service sector, the productivity of the UK's hotel industry is half that of the US while in telecoms the gap is 45 per cent.

The seminar was attended by 20 leading UK businessmen, including Lord Simpson, managing director of GEC,

John Browne, chief executive of BP, Sir Ian Prosser, chairman of Bass, and Terry Leahy, chief executive of Tesco. Mr Brown told them that to achieve the higher productivity on which growth, employment and living standards depended would require "a new national economic purpose".

Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, who co-hosted the seminar, said that the McKinsey study echoed the findings of her own competitiveness unit and pledged that the Government would have a role to play in encouraging

investment and training and improving competition policy.

A series of 10 further seminars will take place around the country this year, covering sectors such as manufacturing, food retailing and software, while the Government intends to publish a competitiveness White Paper in the autumn.

According to McKinsey, the labour productivity gap with France and Germany is partly explained by the fact that these two countries have fewer people in employment working fewer hours.

Outlook, page 25

Gates prepares to back off

Klein and Microsoft in 11th hour peace talks

By David Usborne
in New York

MICROSOFT, the American computer giant headed by the multi-billionaire Bill Gates, scrambled yesterday to fend off a potentially crippling anti-trust action against it by the United States government, by engaging in dramatic 11th-hour negotiations in Washington for a possible out-of-court settlement.

News of the talks surfaced just one hour before a scheduled press conference at which the Justice Department's fair competition tsar, Joel Klein, had been set to outline his action against Microsoft. The attorneys general of three US states who, with about 16 others, have also been threatening to file suits against the company, had been expected to join Mr Klein.

Microsoft, meanwhile, said it was delaying until Monday the first shipments of its new Windows '98 operating platform to personal computer manufacturers. It had planned to release the software today.

Sources said Microsoft had come forward with "major concessions". If they prove insufficient, however, Mr Klein and the attorneys general may yet forge ahead with the lawsuits that could be as far-reaching as the forcible break-up of the old AT&T in 1984 and Standard Oil in 1911.

The remarkable all-out assault on Microsoft, arguably the most revered but also the most feared of American enterprises, stems from a deepening conviction in US government that the company has abused its



Joel Klein and Bill Gates, whose corporation could yet be crippled by the determination of the head of the antitrust division of the Justice Department

near-monopoly position in the personal computer market illegally to trample its rivals and to deny consumers any realistic choices on how their machines function.

The suits were said to include a call on the courts to block the shipment of Windows '98 unless Microsoft agreed to a series of restrictions on the software's contents and the agreements Microsoft had been expecting to reach with the manufacturers who will install it in new computers.

The precise scope of the action that now threatens Microsoft is not fully known.

The extraordinary spectacle of Microsoft scrambling to settle suggested the conditions being presented to the company were far from minor. Lawyers for Mr

Gates were expected to continue the talks in Washington this morning.

At the extreme, the suits could demand the actual break-up of Microsoft into dispute companies. It could, for instance, be divided into two businesses, one making operating systems and the other delivering products for the Internet. Such draconian medicine has only been successfully administered twice before - in the cases of Standard Oil and AT&T. An attempt in the early Eighties to dismantle IBM failed.

At a minimum, both Mr Klein and the 19 odd states are thought to be demanding that Microsoft strip from Windows '98 any automatic function giving users access to the World Wide Web via Microsoft's own

browser, the Internet Explorer. The so-called "bundling" of the browser into Windows has been at the heart of the Justice Department's tug-of-war with Microsoft, which dates back to the launch of Windows 95.

Among the perceived victims of Microsoft's virtual hegemony is Netscape Communications, which pioneered the browser device with its Netscape Navigator. Netscape's once-mighty share of the browser market has slumped since Microsoft integrated the Explorer into Windows 95.

If those agreements are loosened companies such as Compaq or Dell could customise their products to display alternative start-up menus of offering functions produced by other software makers, such as the Netscape Navigator.

At the core of the Justice Department's action is the fear that with the Internet Explorer, Microsoft will for ever be able to control the gateway to a new and potentially monopolistic business in all kinds of online transacting. Already, consumers are beginning to use the Internet to buy books,

a condition that the Windows menu, which instantly offers such functions as the Explorer, must be the first thing that appears on the screen when their PCs are powered up by users.

There remains some doubt as to whether the Justice Department has the legal case to win any wide-ranging action against Microsoft in the courts. It would have to prove not just that Microsoft has achieved a near-monopoly but that it has been acting illegally to protect and expand it. Until yesterday, Microsoft had been defiant, arguing that the government had no right to force it to rip anything from its platform. Microsoft indicated, however, that it was still hoping to get the new software into shops as it has previously planned by 25 June.

Leader, page 20

Outlook, page 25

First blood to the US trust-buster

By Andrew Marshall
in Washington

IF YOU want to believe the rhetoric, Joel Klein is all that stands between America and a vast wave of mega-mergers that will turn the country into one big corporation. As head of the antitrust division of the US Department of Justice, Mr Klein spearheads the nation's competition policy. He is the guiding intelligence behind the campaign to loosen Microsoft's hold on the Internet browser market.

The Microsoft case itself is important enough. But America is currently convulsed by a wave of huge corporate tie-ups, prompting the White House to set up a special team to investigate and appraise the trend. The case against Bill Gates seems to be not just a blow for change in the booming computer software market, but perhaps a straw in the wind for something much bigger. After decades of laissez-faire regulation, is America returning to its older trust-busting ways?

Rhetoric is certainly not Mr Klein's specialty. He is regarded within the legal business as one of the sharpest minds around, but few see him as a saviour. He is described by those who know him as a pragmatist, and though he has known Bill Clinton for many years, few see him in party terms.

Born and raised in the Bronx, Mr Klein, 51, is a product of the élite Harvard Law School. After working as a clerk in the Supreme Court - a highly sought post for young lawyers - he founded his own law firm before fate brought him to the White House. The suicide of Deputy White House counsel Vince Foster in 1993 took him straight into the legal maelstrom that surrounds President Clinton, advising the First Couple on the Whitewater affair as well as coaching Ruth Bader Ginsburg for her Supreme Court confirmation hearing.

Some are critical, seeing him as a publicity-seeker. "If you want to understand him, don't look at him in ideological terms," says one Washington lawyer. "Look in pure ego terms." Some fellow lawyers see him as a highly political player, who is not unaware of the gains to his department and his career from the Microsoft case. It is fair to say, though, that ego is hardly a rare commodity in Washington; and no one questions Klein's assiduity and intelligence. "He is very analytical, very thoughtful, and very highly thought of,"

says another lawyer.

When he was up for confirmation by the Senate last year, there was widespread suspicion that he was a man who would accommodate himself to big business. The Microsoft case has changed that impression. Suddenly, the campaign against monopoly seems to be on the march again.

Antitrust has played a vital role in shaping modern America from the destruction of the trusts at the beginning of the century through to the attacks on IBM and AT&T that helped to define the modern telecommunications and computer industries.

The anti-trust Sherman Act, under which Mr Klein is acting, was passed 105 years ago, part of a wave of populist reaction against the rapid industrialisation after the Civil War. But it was not until the arrival of Thurman Arnold, one of Mr Klein's most distinguished predecessors, in the 1940s, that it really took off. Acting with like-minded judges, Mr Arnold turned it into a powerful tool to break up monopolies, stop price-fixing and prevent agreements that were in restraint of trade.

But from the late 1970s, there was cooling-off. It was no longer fashionable to regard antitrust as a tool of social policy. Instead, more concern was paid to global competition, to the gains that might be realised through mergers and acquisitions, and to free markets.

But despite the latest burst of activism, there is little sign that either Mr Klein or the Justice Department are going back in time. They are trying to work out new approaches, lawyers say. "You're seeing a lot more use of empirical evidence, econometric modelling, and economic analysis," said one lawyer. There is more of a focus on the possible efficiency gains from competition, and Mr Klein (whose first college degree was in economics) has embraced and advanced this.

The Justice Department is also trying to work out how to cope with triple challenges: a vast increase in the amount of merger and acquisition activity, an increase in cross-border activity which requires working with authorities in other countries and a surge in high-technology cases. Mr Klein has indicated his interest in updating laws that were designed for use in traditional industries such as steel and oil to the information age. Nothing could be more important in that context than the World-Wide Web, and the software to access it.

What they could do to Microsoft

Option 1:

Spin off Internet Explorer

The least radical option: Forcing Microsoft to spin off its Internet Explorer web browser would halt the group's attempt to dominate the Internet in the way it currently controls the market for Personal Computer software. It would counter the current allegation against Microsoft - that packaging Internet Explorer with its Windows operating system stifles competitors from other browser groups such as Netscape.

Microsoft's browser would then have to compete for customers rather than coming readily installed as part of every PC which is sold. However, such a course of action would leave the rest of the Microsoft empire intact, leaving it free to find other ways to make the most of the internet.

Option 2:

Separate the software and hardware divisions

Rather than splitting up the company into two separate entities, this option would keep Microsoft's application software, its server and network processing packages and Excel, and separate those from the Windows operating system. Advocates argue that by being allowed to package Windows and its operating software together, Microsoft has had a head start over competitors selling competing packages, such as Word Perfect and Lotus. If Microsoft were forced to separate its software from its hardware, the move would also quash the complaints of other software suppliers that Microsoft does not supply them with access to its hardware.

Microsoft's software would still have access to its hardware, but the hardware would no longer be controlled by the software.

Option 3:

Force Microsoft to license its operating system

One of the most radical options, which would turn Microsoft's operating system into a proprietary application, is to force Microsoft to license its software to other PC manufacturers. Microsoft's software is at the heart of all Windows and other operating systems available to its competitors, allowing them to copy it. As a result, PC users would no longer be forced to use Microsoft's operating system if they had their computer to be compatible with another manufacturer's. The move would also quash the complaints of other software suppliers that Microsoft does not supply them with access to its hardware.

Microsoft's software would still have access to its hardware, but the hardware would no longer be controlled by the software.

Option 4:

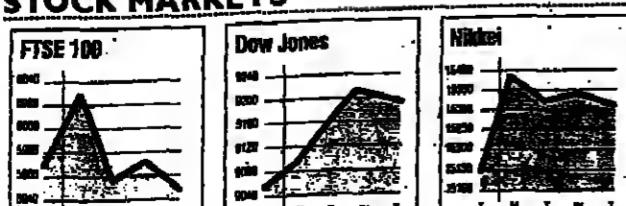
Break up the software business

The most radical option, which would split Microsoft into many smaller parts, advocates argue, is to break up the company's dominance of the PC software market. Microsoft's software is at the heart of all Windows and other operating systems available to its competitors, allowing them to copy it. As a result, PC users would no longer be forced to use Microsoft's operating system if they had their computer to be compatible with another manufacturer's. The move would also quash the complaints of other software suppliers that Microsoft does not supply them with access to its hardware.

Microsoft's software would still have access to its hardware, but the hardware would no longer be controlled by the software.

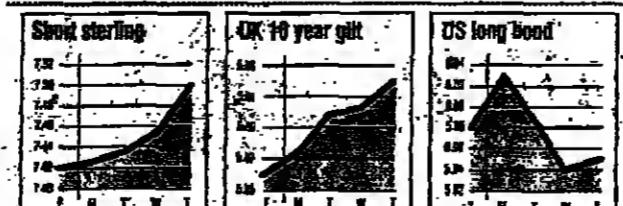
Yesterday in the markets

STOCK MARKETS



Indices	Close	Change	% Change	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yr to date
FTSE 100	5949.50	-24.40	-0.41	6150.50	4382.80	3.54
FTSE 250	5795.50	6.70	0.12	5794.60	4284.20	2.79
FTSE 350	2684.50	-9.50	-0.31	2698.70	2141.60	3.40
FTSE All Share	1918.21	-7.70	-0.22	2061.12	2106.52	3.37
FTSE SmallCap	2749.20	5.50	0.20	2743.70	2182.10	2.90
FTSE AIM	1109.20	4.60	0.31	1455.30	1226.20	3.19
FTSE 1000	1016.86	-15.94	-0.14	1021.00	857.32	1.54
Dow Jones	9194.40	-15.94	-0.17	9221.31	8571.32	0.51
Nikkei	15307.69	-38.12	-0.24	2070.79	14488.21	0.98
Hong Kong	9591.95	12.66	1.30	10826.37	7909.13	4.17
Dax	5361.22	-15.66	-0.29	5442.00	3487.24	1.51

INTEREST RATES



	Rate	Change	% Change	Yr to date
UK	7.49	0.89	7.50	0.56
US	5.70	-0.11	5.59	-0.34
Japan	0.55	-0.04	0.58	-0.28
Germany	3.03	0.47	3.04</	

Banks ready to pull out of Indonesia

By Stephen Vines in Hong Kong
and Les Paterson in London

FOREIGN banks and broking companies yesterday began to shut down operations and pulling out staff from Indonesia as the rioting escalated.

ABN Amro has shut down its 600-strong Indonesian operations, and Deutsche Bank has temporarily closed its two branches in the region. John Ellis, senior vice president at BankAmerica, said: "The panic buttons were hit this morning." The US bank has begun to evacuate staff from Indonesia.

An ABN Amro spokesperson said evacuation was an option for the Dutch bank, one of the largest foreign banks in the region. "We will do whatever we feel is necessary to protect our staff," he said. The bank was monitoring developments "minute-by-minute".

Staff were reportedly sent home early from both Merrill Lynch and Bangkok Bank. HSBC, Standard Chartered and ING Barings said they hoped to open for business today, but were keeping the situation under review.

A spokesman for one of the foreign banks said: "I understand staff were watching cars burning from the bank's window." Another said: "We've advised our staff not to travel and some have started moving their families out of the country."

The banks said their primary concern was for the safety of their staff. Most were unwilling to discuss their contingency plans, saying that could endanger their employees.

Both BankAmerica and Standard Chartered are understood to have around 500 staff in the region. ING Barings has about 160.

Other foreign companies are believed to be preparing evacuation plans.

Meanwhile, the financial markets virtually ground to a halt yesterday but not before the local currency suffered

yet another 10 per cent sell-off, resulting in its value falling by 25 per cent since the latest round of trouble began on Tuesday.

Many local broking houses closed for business, followed by banks and other financial institutions. Some brokers stopped taking orders because of fears that they would never be settled.

A spokesman for Credit Lyonnais Securities said the situation was being reviewed on an "hour-by-hour" basis. Ethnic Chinese, who have borne the brunt of the looting and burning, are disproportionately represented in the finance industry. For that reason many employees left to be with their families. Michael Lim, the treasurer at Standard Chartered Bank in Jakarta, was quoted as saying, "I can't find my wife. I am very depressed."

The house of Liem Sioe Liong, Indonesia's most prominent Chinese businessman, was looted and burned yesterday. Mr Liem controls the Salim group and has a 40 per cent share in the regional conglomerate First Pacific.

Meanwhile shares in companies such as the Humpass group and Bimantara Citra, controlled by members of President Suharto's family, saw their prices plunge by as much as 25 per cent.

The *Jakarta Post* reported Tauri Abeng, the state enterprise minister, as saying that foreign buyers have withdrawn from two privatisation projects in light of the current situation. That cast doubt on 12 other projects high on the list of requirements laid down by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in return for Indonesia's \$43bn (£24bn) bailout.

Earlier in the week Indonesia indicated that even that amount was insufficient. Gintandjar Kartasasmita, the economic co-ordinating minister, said:

"We'll definitely need more." Negotiations with creditors over the nation's \$80bn private sector foreign debt are



A car blazes outside a bank in Jakarta yesterday, where the financial centre has been disrupted. Reuters

still under way but making little progress. A meeting in Frankfurt on 26 May will see if further repayment extensions can be agreed.

Although the troubles in Indonesia sent share prices down in other parts of the region earlier in the week, there was little response yes-

terday although the Singapore market, which has the closest connections with Indonesia, fell by 2.3 per cent.

Nevertheless the situation in Indonesia is adding to a general gloom which refuses to lift from Asian markets. "Most of the markets are going to revisit the low points of February

and January," said Hong Kong based Peter Churchouse of Morgan Stanley, which is advising clients to be "underweight in equities right now".

Russell Jones of Lehman Brothers in Hong Kong said: "It's a very negative environment. The momentum is likely to remain downward for some time."

Seagram in talks on stake in PolyGram

SEAGRAM, the Canadian drinks and entertainment giant, confirmed yesterday it was in talks with Philips Electronics over a possible acquisition of Philips' stake in PolyGram, the world's leading music company. Discussions are continuing and the parties are now inviting PolyGram to participate in the discussions, Seagram said. In a brief statement, Seagram said no assurance could be provided that an agreement could be reached. Philips issued a similar statement earlier. Philips owns 75 per cent of PolyGram.

Fund glory for Soros

SOROS Fund Management is the top emerging market equity fund manager for the last five years, *Microcap Emerging Market Fund Manager* said. Soros Fund Management had gained 184.26 per cent, the best five-year weighted composite return in the global emerging markets stocks sector. Soros Fund Management was trailed by Paris-based FP Consult, up 139.81 per cent, and London's Ermitage Management, with a 127.64 per cent rise.

Big rise in BAA traffic

PASSENGER traffic at the seven airports run by BAA, the airport operator, rose 9.8 per cent in April from a year earlier. Short-haul European charter traffic rose 21.9 per cent and North Atlantic services 11.3 per cent. BAA handled 8.8 million passengers at its airports in April, with London's Heathrow registering its largest monthly rise for more than two years of 7.3 per cent.

Warning hits Ilion shares

SHARES in the information technology company Ilion Group slumped by 76p, or 40 per cent, to 118.5p after it issued a profit warning. "Following difficult trading conditions in the UK during the first four months of 1998, it does not expect to meet market profit expectations for 1998," it said. The company said its trade in March has been in line with budget but after that it has been "exceptionally disappointing" in the UK.

Bluebird Toys offer raised

GUINNESS PEAT Group yesterday raised its offer for Bluebird Toys to 116p a share, valuing the company at £48.2m. GPG, the investment company chaired by New Zealander Ron Brierley, had said in March it was considering its position over Bluebird after US toy company Mattel trumped its bid with an agreed 111p per share offer. Mattel's offer valued Bluebird at £46m and compares with GPG's original 101p hostile bid.

Storms cost insurers £7m

INDEPENDENT Insurance Group said yesterday that storms in January and the floods during Easter would result in an overall estimated net loss of £7m. It said several areas of its operation had produced a significant increase in new business and its commercial accounts continued to perform well. The market welcomed the overall trading update, marking Independent Insurance's shares up 60p at 1775p.

Sales up 8.5% at WM stores

WILLIAM Morrison Supermarkets said trading was "entirely satisfactory" with sales 8.52 per cent higher than last year, including a like-for-like contribution of 3.3 per cent. Ken Morrison, chairman, said the chain has "once again seen record sales and profit growth" and has extended its development programme with plans to open seven superstores during 1999, creating up to 2,400 jobs.

£7m take-off for former footballer

By Michael Harrison

A FORMER amateur footballer who helped launch an airline with an aircraft borrowed from a German museum will be £7m richer when the business floats on the stock market next month.

Terry Liddiard, who played centre-half for Headington United FC (the forerunner of Oxford United) in the old Southern League, will have a stake of around 7 per cent in British Regional Airlines, which is expected to be valued at £100m.

Mr Liddiard, chief executive, and 1,450 staff at British Regional Airlines will own about 10 per cent of the business in total. The current owner of the group, the British Midland chairman Sir Michael Bishop, is reducing his holding from 90 per cent to just under 30 per cent through an institutional placing.

The flotation will raise about £25m of new money.

enabling British Regional Airlines to expand its operations rapidly with a fleet of Embraer 145 jets.

The group operates 86 routes under the Manx Airlines brand and as a franchise of British Airways, and carried 2.5 million passengers last year. Mr Liddiard joined Manx as a founder director in 1982 when the airline was relaunched with just three aircraft, including a Vickers Viscount and a turboprop Fokker F27 on loan from a German museum.

It is already BA's biggest franchisee and the flotation is expected to see a further strengthening of its links with BA with British Regional Airlines taking over more BA services from Manchester and Southampton.

The group made pre-tax profits of £3.8m on sales of £165m last year but analysts are pencilling in profits of more than £5m for the current year.

First link opens in telecoms network

By Peter Thal Larsen

THE FIGHT for dominance in the European telecom market intensified as Esprit Telecom, the Reading-based operator, opened a new high-speed link between Paris and London.

The link, which is the first part of a network which will Esprit hopes eventually stretch across most of Europe, demonstrates the growing demand for cross-border telecom services.

Graham Halls, Esprit's UK managing director, pointed out that business telecom users are increasingly demanding telecom networks which link seamlessly across national borders. However, national operators such as British Telecom find it hard to offer these services.

"Previously if I wanted to buy a telephone circuit I'd have to buy half a circuit from BT and got to France Telecom to provide the other half," he said, adding that Esprit's strat-

egy was to consider Europe as a single market.

Esprit now plans to build other loops stretching through Belgium, the Netherlands, France, Germany and Spain. They should be ready for launch next year.

The London-Paris link employs the latest "self-healing" fibre-optic technology. This allows Esprit to offer a range of services including high-speed data transmission and video conferencing at substantially cheaper rates than are currently on offer.

Some analysts expressed concern that Esprit had not actually laid its own cable. Instead, the company pieced the link together by buying bits of cable from other operators such as Racal Telecom and the French motorway operator, for £41m.

Shares in Colt yesterday surged 25.7p to 1940p as Morgan Stanley, the stockbroker, issued an upbeat recommendation. In the past year, the shares have soared from less than 300p.

operators a chance to jump in. "If we had laid our own cable it would have added take 18 months longer to get it ready," said Jim Reynolds, chief operating officer.

Esprit's move demonstrates the opportunities in continental Europe for fast-moving telecom operators. Yesterday Colt Telecom, the US-funded group which is building local networks in major European cities, reported a 34 per cent increase in first-quarter revenues.

Colt, which already has a local network in the City of London, plans to build high-speed fibre-optic "rings" in 12 European business centres. It is in talks to buy a network in Amsterdam from Telecom Noord West, a subsidiary of a local electricity company, for £41m.

Shares in Colt yesterday surged 25.7p to 1940p as Morgan Stanley, the stockbroker, issued an upbeat recommendation. In the past year, the shares have soared from less than 300p.

However, BG's exploration and production business made a strong contribution, posting a 57 per cent increase in operating profits to £63m on the back of a 48 per cent rise in production volumes.

Despite a near 20 per cent fall in oil and gas prices on the previous year, operating profit per barrel was up by 6 per cent

as BG's drive to cut production costs began to pay dividends. The warm weather in February, when temperatures rose into the mid 60s Fahrenheit, took its toll on domestic gas consumption. But the actual volume of gas transported during the quarter was the same as 1997 because of the increased demand from large industrial users.

COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Alcan Peter (F)	51.7m (46.8m)	4.200m (4.798m)	6.2p (7.0p)	2.2p (2.0p)
Alts (F)	94.4m (31.2m)	5.800m (3.058m)	9.0p (2.4p)	1.5p (1.25p)
Bank of Ireland (F)	187 (-)	530.4m (395.8m)	70.0p (32.0p)	23.0p (17.75p)
BGI (F)	21.3m (18.3m)	524.0m (514.0m)	9.0p (7.2p)	n/a
British & West (F)	- (-)	91.22p (8.77p)	- (-)	n/a
Car Group (F)	136.1m (88.0m)	3.305m (2.097m)	5.3p (5.0p)	1.72p (1.50p)
A de Gruyck (F)	56.4m (48.9m)	3.21m (3.21m)	17.05p (17.00p)	0.52p (7.0p)
Jersey Electricity (F)	- (-)	3.862m (2.988m)	2.01p (1.55p)	2.30p (18.0p)
Manx & Overseas (F)	5.7m (4.8m)	0.224m (0.103m)	0.32p (0.11p)	n/a
Gasstransnet (F)	38.5m (35.0m)	8.4m (8.7m)	8.8p (8.2p)	4.5p (4.1p)
Scottish Radio Wigan (F)	21.2m (16.3m)	5.758m (4.491m)	14.2 (10.8p)	3.6p (3.0p)
Stobart (F)	- (-)	3.516m (2.787)	3.1p (3.0p)	0.65p (0.75p)
Transco (F)	14.3m (13.7m)	0.982m (0.800m)	10.3p (8.8p)	3.5p (3.5p)
(F) - Past (F) - Interim (F) - Quarterly (F) - EPS is pre-exceptional				"Dividend to be paid as a PI

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THE INVESTMENT COLUMN
EDITED BY ANDREW YATESWHC can get
over this glitch

WESTMINSTER Health Care has got itself into a pickle. To issue a profit warning is bad enough. But when your finance director sells a big chunk of shares just two weeks before it is announced to the Stock Exchange it raises a serious concern about the management of the company.

If, as sources close to the company maintain, Philip Easterman was acting on his own then he was at best misguided; at worst he faces further action by the Stock Exchange. The fact that he failed to inform the group's other executives about the profit warning of some of its subsidiaries suggests internal controls were found wanting.

In any case he had to go and if the company can salvage any credit from this situation is was by the way it organised a quick replacement. This unsavoury episode has undoubtedly tainted the reputation of WHC in the City. The profit warning came because it failed to attract the number of patients it forecast to its secure homes and suffered delays in opening new psychiatric units. But at least the end to these problems are in sight. Government cutbacks and intense competition has also hit revenues from its brain injury business.

In other words the string of problems have put WHC's plans back a year. But they have done little to affect the group's long-term potential.

The nursing home market has suffered from over-supply but occupancy levels are finally on the rise with demand rising sharply. Rising wage costs have kept margins in check but prospects are still encouraging.

Specialist health care analyst Laing & Buisson forecasts current-year profits of £16.5m which should recover to £21m for the following 12 months putting the shares on a prospective p/e ratio of 15.

WHC's problems look like a glitch, albeit a rather substantial one. It may take some time for the company to dust itself off the sick ward but in the long term the shares do not look expensive.

Scottish Radio
sounds healthy

HOW LONG can the radio boom last? In the past few years, commercial radio operators and their shareholders

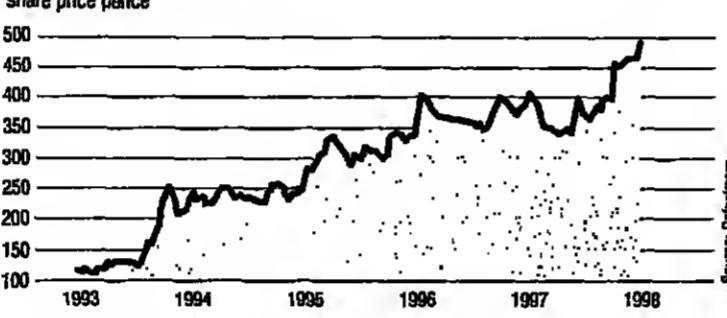
Scottish Radio: At a glance

Market value: £139.2m, share price 499p (+10p)

Trading record	12 months to 30 September					6 months to 31 March				
	1995	1996	1997	1997	1998	1995	1996	1997	1997	1998
Turnover (£m)	17.1	28.4	37.4	18.3	21.3					
Pre-tax profits (£m)	5.1	7.0	9.3	4.5	5.8					
Earnings per share (p)	15.0	18.7	23.0	10.8	14.2					
Dividends per share (p)	6.5	7.8	9.9	3.0	3.6					

Divisional breakdown

6 months to March, £m

Scottish Radio
share price pence

have enjoyed the best of all worlds. First, radio's share of the total advertising spend has grown from next to nothing to about 5 per cent as advertisers have switched away from more expensive media. Second, industry consolidation has yielded huge cost savings. Finally, general advertising spending has also been rising.

Clearly, this pace of growth cannot last. Commercial radio's share of listeners is unlikely to rise much further, so advertising growth is likely to slow. Room for further consolidation is limited.

Scottish Radio's profits are highly geared to advertising. Interim results, released yesterday, showed operating profits rising by a third to £6m on sales up 16 per cent to £21.3m. Of that, only a few percentage points was the result of acquisitions.

That said, Mr Findlay still thinks advertising growth will be in the "low teens" this year, suggesting healthy profit growth. A bid from a larger media

company for Scottish Radio is unlikely to be a good deal for shareholders.

The encouraging factor, however,

was that growth on the radio side was matched by rising profits in its local

newspaper operations, where Scottish Radio has recently been acquiring and integrating new titles.

This shows that the company is more than just a radio operator – its skills in understanding and exploiting local markets extend to other media. As a result, it's no surprise that Richard Findlay, chief executive, will not rule out moves into other media, though he's reluctant to say which ones he might be eyeing up.

Strong cashflow means that Scottish Radio now has a £2.6m cash pile with which to pursue acquisitions. The only problem is that Mr Findlay refuses to pay the inflated prices for which radio stations are now changing hands. Competition for deals in local newspapers is also becoming more intense.

That said, Mr Findlay still thinks advertising growth will be in the "low teens" this year, suggesting healthy profit growth. A bid from a larger media

group also remains a possibility. On a forward earnings multiple of about 18 the shares, up 10p to 499p yesterday, fully deserve their current rating.

Emu is the key for
Bank of Ireland

WOULD-BE investors in the Bank of Ireland (BoI) should try and answer the \$64,000 question: will Economic and Monetary Union (Emu) be a success?

The healthy state of the Irish economy has been an important factor in BoI's recent success. A combination of low Irish inflation and strong growth have helped the group make pre-tax profits of £185.30m (£461.2m) for the year to March, a jump of 34.1 per cent. The dividend rose by 30 per cent to £12.30p a share.

Two weeks ago, Ireland was formally given the green light to join the first wave of Emu. The BoI, unsurprisingly, is upbeat about the introduction of the euro, stressing the enhanced opportunities for inward investment. But Irish interest rates are currently above most European rates. Given that a common rate must apply across all participating states from 1 January, Irish rates will have to come down. This could destabilise a hitherto healthy economy and erode margins in the mortgage market.

However, it is unfair to attribute the entirety of the BoI's profit growth to the healthy Irish economy – only around half of the bank's profits flow from the Irish Republic.

Bristol & West (B&W), the UK building society which became part of the Irish group in July, was another driver of profit growth. B&W brought in profits of £18.92m last year, and continues to thrive in a competitive UK mortgage market.

Maurice Keane, BoI's chief executive, is not averse to an acquisition or two – possibly another UK building society – and corporate activity of this type should give BoI's shares an added boost. The shares closed yesterday down 34p to 1258p in London and down 140p at IR14.50p in Dublin after

a bout of profit taking.

Brokers' forecasts, upgraded slightly in the light of yesterday's figures, put the bank at a forward p/e of around 18, pretty standard for this type of stock. At first glance, this makes BoI look good value, given the solid across-the-board growth in its businesses. But when you factor in the uncertainties that Emu will bring, the shares seem fairly priced.

PEOPLE &
BUSINESSCLIFFORD
GERMAN

client, Real World Education, will move in, using office space to provide training on Microsoft office systems.

Meanwhile Hot Air, an all-male quartet in which James sings bass, has just won its first major booking to appear at the Claremont Fete Champetre, a kind of al-fresco Glyndebourne-style event near Esher, complete with dinner, musical entertainment and fireworks, in aid of the National Trust each evening from July 15 to 19. Lead singer is Norman Lily, who sells vitamins for a living. Bob Jury, an internet consultant sings tenor and Neil Barton, another computer expert, is the baritone. Their repertoire ranges from Gilbert & Sullivan to "Ol' Man River" and "the Whiffenpoof Song". We wish them all a run of fine, mosquito-free nights.

FOOTBALL clubs don't just employ footballers these days of course. Without the extra financial resources needed to buy good players and pay their wages, even the most dedicated of teams are doomed to fail, as Barnsley, Bolton and Crystal Palace know to their cost. All three clubs won promotion to the Premier League a year ago; all three are heading back down again next season because they lacked the cash to compete.

In an attempt to avoid a similar fate, Nottingham Forest yesterday moved to consolidate winning promotion by hiring Zone, a firm of specialist merchandising consultants to boost their outside income. Last year Zone recruited Edward Freedman, a former managing director of Manchester United Merchandising, which increased its annual turnover from £2.7m to £28.7m over the last five years.

He tells me his remit is to provide Forest with a "positive brand image", not just to sell more kit to long-suffering supporters and their kids. Possible ideas include a new fanzone and a club museum, which might just possibly bear the name of Brian Clough, the club's most controversial character in recent years.

CHARLES SCOTT, who runs Cordiant, the advertising agency formerly known as Saatchi & Saatchi, since the soap-opera hustled up three years ago which saw the eponymous brothers expelled from the business they founded and set up elsewhere, has joined the board of TBI, the airports and property group, as a non-executive director. I gather he has been head-hunted to help the group develop its airport management business, especially in the US, and complete the shift away from its roots in the property business.

BRIAN TORA, marketing director at private client stockbrokers Greig Middleton (and a columnist for "Your Money", our personal finance section on Saturdays), tells me of a dramatic day at the races at Huntingdon, in the heart of John Majorland this week. Greig Middleton sponsored the Ladies Open Championship for the second successive year. The favourite fell, the second favourite unseated its rider and an outsider, Boxing Match, ridden by Vicki Roberts came through to win. She also drove the horse to the meeting and collected the prizes on behalf of the trainer and the owner.

Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Sterling			Dollar			D-Mark		
	1 month	3 months	1 month	3 months	Spot	1 month	3 months	1 month	3 months
UK	10000	10200	10153	10250	10163	10162	10143	10143	10143
Australia	22801	25080	25080	25080	25080	25080	25080	25080	25080
Austria	20441	20406	20406	20406	20406	20406	20406	20406	20406
Belgium	58913	59777	59777	59777	59777	59777	59777	59777	59777
Canada	23595	23545	23545	23545	23545	23545	23545	23545	23545
Denmark	10205	10205	10205	10205	10205	10205	10205	10205	10205
EU	147	147	147	147	147	147	147	147	147
Finland	81835	81795	81795	81795	81795	81795	81795	81795	81795
France	9708	9708	9708	9708	9708	9708	9708	9708	9708
Germany	20829	21029	21029	21029	21029	21029	21029	21029	21029
Greece	50247	50247	50247	50247	50247	50247	50247	50247	50247
Hong Kong	12632	12632	12632	12632	12632	12632	12632	12632	12632
Ireland	1355	1355	1355	1355	1355	1355	1355	1355	1355
Italy	26815	26815	26815	26815	26815	26815	26815	26815	26815
Japan	239	239	239	239	239	239	239	239	239
Malaysia	81807	81761	81761	81761	81761	81761	81761	81761	81761
Mexico	13666	13666	13666	13666	13666	13666	13666	13666	13666
Netherlands	10205	10205	10205	10205	10205	10205	10205	10205	10205
New Zealand	25252	25252	25252	25252	25252	25252	25252	25252	25252
Norway	1272	1272	1272	1272	1272	1272	1272	1272	1272
Portugal	25753	25753	25753	25753	25753	25753	25753	25753	25753
Spain	12585	12585	12585	12585	12585	12585	12585	12585	12585
Sweden	12527	12527	12527	12527	12527	12527	12527	12527	12527
Switzerland	1247	1247	1247	1247	1247	1247	1247	1247	1247
UK	16205	16205	16205</						

Chelsea look to avoid pitfalls of past success

CHELSEA jetted into the island of Martinique last night with nothing to declare but Gianni Zola's genius and a new item of silverware. The Cup-Winners' Cup triumph over VfB Stuttgart in Stockholm stirred blue remembered thrills of when they won the same competition in 1971. The task facing Gianluca Vialli, once his team's Caribbean holiday is over, is to ensure that the similarities end there.

Twenty-seven years ago, following the defeat of Real Madrid in Athens, no one seriously questioned the Chelsea captain's greeting to the crowds who welcomed them back to Fulham Town Hall. "We're the kings of Europe now," Ron Harris exclaimed with all the subtlety which marked his tackling. Within four seasons, they were relegated.

Least the connection between the two events seem tenuous, it should be noted that the first conspicuous sign of things starting to fall apart came within months of Chelsea's victory in

the final. In their first serious defence of the trophy, against the Swedish part-timers at Avidaberg, they were eliminated on away goals.

Chelsea's failure to build on an exceptional start to the Seventies was a complex affair, involving the construction of a stand they could not afford and a communication breakdown between a cerebral manager, Dave Sexton, and some of his more maverick players.

The events of last February, when Ruud Gullit was unexpectedly sacked by Ken Bates, suggest that the extent to which Vialli is allowed to manage in the manner he chooses may hold the key to avoiding similar strife this time.

Even Bates, the grumpy grey eminence of SW6, cannot quibble with Vialli's record as player-manager, albeit with personnel inherited from Gullit.

Chelsea, having won nothing bar the Second Division title and the Full Members' Cup since the Sexton era, have al-

ready added to March's Coca-Cola Cup win over Middlesbrough.

The Swedish newspaper *Svenska Dagbladet* spoke of an "Engelsk fest" in the Rasunda Stadium. The headline must have referred to Chelsea's 16,000 followers, who pumped up the volume whenever their team appeared to be flagging, for in truth the Anglo-Saxon influence on the pitch was not pronounced.

Neither, happily, was it entirely absent. The captain, Dennis Wise, produced the marvellously incisive pass from which Zola struck his stunning winner within 20 seconds of appearing as a late substitute.

Yet whereas the side led by Harris contained only three players not born in England, the only Englishmen among the 12 involved against Stuttgart were

Celestine Babayaro, Laurent Charvet and Bernard Lambourde. have proved nothing so far other than that Gullit's knowledge of the French scene

was inferior to Arsène Wenger's.

As a consequence, the strength available to Vialli has not run sufficiently deep to paper over the cracks whenever match-winners such as Zola have been injured. One of the challenges confronting Vialli must be to prevent Chelsea becoming simply a collection of cup showmen, raising their game in one-off matches but without the resilience to push for the championship.

Gullit would be entitled to point out that his team, rather than Arsenal, carried the main threat to Manchester United at the time of his demise.

The final Premiership table reveals that despite finishing fourth, Chelsea lost no fewer than 15 games, most of the defeats occurring since the change of management.

It may also seem invidious to criticise players who have kept a clean sheet in a major final, especially on a pitch of which many of both sides were transparently suspicious. But there

were enough fraught moments in front of Ed De Goey to suggest that the first area which Vialli should address is his defence.

The partnership of Leboeuf and Duberry is error-prone, while Steve Clarke, who has been at Stamford Bridge longer than anyone except Bates, has passed his peak.

There is also a case to be made for additions to the strikers' department if Chelsea are to graduate from being pretenders to contenders in the League. Mark Hughes has received a renewed lease of life because of the squad-rotation system introduced by Gullit, but in his 35th year he is understandably most effective when playing in short bursts.

Vialli, too, reaches 34 during the closing season and Zola will be 32 by the time Chelsea return back to training. Michael Laudrup, whose transfer from Rangers is in the balance after a dispute between the clubs, could well be the first of many high-profile recruits should the deal go through.



Zola: The Cup-Winners' Cup-winner. Photograph: Reuters

the Uefa Cup thanks to the London club.

The ripples of Chelsea's sat-

isfaction have even reached

Highbury in the form of a pos-

itive augury on the eve of the

FA Cup final. For it was in that

heady spring of '71, when all the

main prizes except the Euro-

pean Cup and the Uefa Cup last

came to London – as might well

happen again this year – that

Arsenal won the Double.

Day when courage was not enough

ADDRESSING the men he was about to lead against Newcastle United in the 1952 FA Cup final, by then in his 38th year, Joe Mercer declared, "Don't forget – nobody starts favourites against Arsenal."

If stirred by their captain's call to arms, the horse players in Arsenal's line-up were not inclined to disagree with the odds that had been laid against them.

Merger was taking out a team stricken by illness and injuries. Welsh international Ray Daniel wore a protective covering over the plaster cast that encased a broken wrist; Jimmy Logic, his right thigh strapped could barely conceal a limp; Doug Lishman, like Logic, not long out of hospital hadn't completely shaken off the effects of blood poisoning; Cliff Holtton, the only fully-fit centre-forward available to Arsenal's manager, Tom Whittaker, was turning out in his first FA Cup tie.

Speaking last week from Johannesburg, his home for more than 30 years, Alex Forbes, the Scottish international who was at right-half for Arsenal said, "Things got so bad I imagined us turning up at Wembley in an ambulance. Even Arsenal fans among the gamblers I mixed with in those days were betting against us."

Arsenal's troubles began after defeating Chelsea in a replayed semi-final to set up a possible championship and Cup double 19 years before their north London rivals Tottenham Hotspur became the first club to achieve it this century.

Playing three games in four days over Easter (in those days a feature of the League programme) Arsenal were left counting their wounded. First Daniel, who broke a wrist in collision with Stan Mortensen at Blackpool on Good Friday. At Bolton, the following day, Daniel's veteran deputy, Leslie Cumpson, pulled a muscle. Forty-eight hours later (and the present crop of players complain of strain) Logic was badly hurt against Newcastle at Highbury when Arsenal also lost Arthur Shaw, their third centre-half in successive matches.

Walker at Wembley again

Non-League notebook

By Rupert Metcalf

CLIVE WALKER, the former Chelsea and Woking forward who now turns out for Cheltenham Town, is not used to being marked by a defender older than himself. That is what may lie in wait for him, though, if he is selected for Sunday's FA Umbro Trophy final.

Although the Gloucestershire club can field two other strikers, Dale Watkins and Jason Eaton, who have hit 33 goals between them this term, Walker will surely play some part against Southport. The 40-year-old – he turns 41 later this month – has become a trophy specialist, having collected winners' medals with Woking in 1994, '95 and '97.

In contrast, Southport's

Tomorrow Wembley stages a repeat of the 1952 Cup final. Ken Jones talks to one of the losing side from 46 years ago

A 3-1 defeat at West Bromwich with five reserves in the team left Arsenal with the task of winning 7-0 at Old Trafford to gain the League title ahead of Manchester United. Whittaker conceded in a telegram to Matt Busby: "All at Arsenal send sincere congratulations on a worthy championship success."

In an autobiography *Tom Whittaker's Arsenal Story* published shortly before his death in 1956, Whittaker went over the trials that quickly followed. "Up in Newcastle my rival manager and old friend Stan Seymour, in a radio interview, was saying: 'All these stories about injuries from Highbury may be just a trick by Tom Whittaker to put us off our guard.' Oh Stan, if you only knew what went on at Highbury in those desperate and disappointing weeks."

Forty-six years on, Forbes, now 73 and together with goal-keeper George Swindin and outside-left Don Roper one of three members of the 1952 team still living, recalls fear of an epidemic in the dressing-room. "When Jimmy [Logic] followed Doug Lishman into hospital we began to wonder about conditions in the treatment room, something that hadn't occurred to us before because they were supposed to be the best."

Whittaker, formerly the club's physiotherapist, ordered all equipment to be removed and sterilised. Training refuse was immediately burned. "One joke was that a sign should be painted on the dressing-room doors to show where the dead could be picked up but the seriousness of the situation didn't escape us," Forbes recalled.

Bought from Sheffield United for £12,000 in 1948 after making five of 14 appearances in Scotland's colours, Forbes was both skilful and hard, his balance a reminder that he could have made a name in ice hockey. A key figure when Arsenal de-

player-manager, Paul Putcher, who will be 42 in September, will be making his debut at the national stadium. In a distinguished Football League career which began with Chester 26 years ago, the stylish central defender never reached Wembley.

Sunday will also be a first appearance there for both clubs. "To be the manager that takes this club to Wembley for the first time in their 117-year history makes it very special," Putcher said. "And to have the chance at 41 to turn out at Wembley, when I thought the opportunity had passed me by, is something beyond my wildest dreams."

In charge at Cheltenham is Steve Cotterill who, at 33, is believed to be the youngest manager to lead out a team at a senior Wembley final. His side are the bookmakers' favourites for the trophy, thanks largely to a closing run of six wins

(including two against Southport) in eight games which saw them finish in second place behind Halifax Town in the GM Vauxhall Conference.

Southport, however, lost seven of their last eight matches and ended up in 16th place. The Lancashire club will also have less support on Sunday: they have sold about 8,000 tickets while Cheltenham have got rid of around twice that number.

The Conference will reveal its plans for a new two-tier structure next week. Subject to ratification at next month's annual general meeting, it will start the 1999-2000 season with a second division of 22 clubs – a development which would have a dramatic impact on its three feeder leagues. Bill King, the Conference chairman, said: "Our proposed revision is about clubs and fans, not the tradition of [other] competitions."

By Adam Szczerb

FULHAM have made almost as many enemies as new admirers since Mohammed Al Fayed turned his considerable financial attention towards a famous old club languishing near the bottom of the Nationwide League. But despite failure to reach the Second Division promotion play-off final this week, a disappointment that followed shortly after the abrupt dismissal of Ray Wilkins as team manager, it would still be hard to find a genuine Fulham supporter wishing to turn the clock back.

The 88m team is the envy of every other club in their division, and a good many others besides, but Al Fayed is not the first of English football's new generation of mega-rich proprietors to discover that money does not buy instant success. Ironically, it was the sending-off of one of

their more expensive acquisitions, Paul Peschisolido, that did much to undermine Fulham's hopes in the play-off semi-final second leg at Grimsby on Wednesday.

They came close but, as Kevin Keegan, their erstwhile chief operations manager and now team manager, said after the 1-0 defeat that consigned Fulham to at least another year in the Second Division: "My job is to make sure we get into the Premiership within four years now. We're a bit short of time but it'll make it more exciting."

Judging by the comments flowing into The Fulham Independent website yesterday that is exactly how it is seen by the majority of their fans, both old and new. Little more than two years after struggling near the foot of the Third Division, recent attendance records are being broken at Craven Cottage and with players like Peschisoli-

dn and Chris Coleman alongside the more experienced Paul Bracknell and Peter Beardsley the future looks bright.

Whether Keegan will be a part of that future, and in what role, remains to be seen. It is believed he will appoint a new manager in the summer and revert to his previous job, but if he found it difficult keeping his nose out of Wilkins' business then he will have to choose his man carefully or take it on himself.

Al Fayed's money has already produced miracles in SW6, and more critical to Fulham's future than Keegan of course is Al Fayed himself. Unlike the Jack Walkers and Jack Haywards, Al Fayed has no deep-rooted attachment to his club and could pull the plug at any time. In the meantime, though, as Keegan said after the game on Wednesday, "Maybe Fulham FC started here tonight."

Justice for Charlton and Sunderland

JUSTICE was done in the First Division play-offs on Wednesday night as the sides with finished third and fourth in the table – Sunderland and Charlton – booked their places in the Wembley final on 25 May.

Sunderland, who just missed out on automatic promotion, sealed their trip to Wembley with a 2-0 win over sixth-placed Sheffield United, while Charlton beat fifth-placed Ipswich 1-0.

Sunderland had to claw back a 2-1 deficit from the first leg and it was unfortunate that the United defender Nicky Markham drew them level by diverting Allan Johnston's 20-yard effort into his own net in the 22nd minute.

Top scorer Kevin Phillips then gave Sunderland a deserved lead in the 38th minute with his 34th goal of the season – which equals Brian Clough's post-war record.

Sunderland continued to bombard United's goal in the first half, but after the break Lionel Perez pulled off three sensational saves to deny United the vital goal in front of 40,092 at the Stadium of Light. Shaun Newton secured Charlton's place in the final by wrapping up a 2-0 aggregate victory. At the Valley, Charlton held a 1-0 advantage from the first leg and Newton's 36th-minute effort clinched Charl-

ton's first Wembley appearance for 11 years.

Northampton staged the comeback of the play-offs in the Second Division after trailing 3-1 to Bristol Rovers in the first leg. Carl Heggy, returning after a four-match suspension, fired them into a 34th-minute lead and Ian Clarkson drew the Cobblers level on 61 minutes.

Ray Warburton sealed a 3-0 second-leg success and 4-3 aggregate triumph in the 77th minute. Northampton will now meet Grimsby at Wembley on 24 May for a First Division place.

Grimsby, who finished third in the Second Division and won the Auto Windscreens Shield at Wembley last month, had Kevin Donovan to thank for their second trip to the twin towers this season.

He struck nine minutes from time against Fulham to clinch a 2-1 aggregate win, after Kevin Keegan's men had had Paul Peschisolido sent off after half an hour.

In the Third Division, Torquay stormed to Wembley with a 4-1 second-leg win and 7-2 aggregate victory over Scarborough, who had two players sent off. Torquay will meet Colchester in the final on May 22, although Colchester had extra time to hear 10-man Barnet who had held a 1-0 advantage from the first leg.

did no
ister
inquiry

Dance swings into Derby rhythm

By Richard Edmondson
at York

DURING his long sabbatical from the race track, Walter Swinburn was sustained by the thought of afternoons like yesterday's on the Knavesmire.

It took a year in the sidings for the Choirboy to correct his fluctuating weight and regain focus for riding. Now it may require just another two and a half minutes for the jockey to establish himself at his profession's pinnacle in three weeks' time.

In winning yesterday's Glasgow Stakes, Swinburn's mount, Greek Dance, established himself as favourite for the Derby in one book. Shergar, Shahristani and Lammtarra may have to squeeze in the rider's heart to make space for yet another Blue Riband winner.

McCoy hits 250

TONY McCLOY moved past the 250 mark for the season with a double at Perth yesterday. The champion, however, starts a five-day han on Sunday.

2.30 Esperto 3.00 Republic 3.35 Polly Golightly 4.05 Sadler's Blaze 4.35 Wild Palm 5.10 Sweet Dreams

GOING: Good to Firm (Good in places). STALLS: Inside (except 5 & 8, stands side). DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

LEADING TRAINERS: J Dunlop 21-122 (77%), J Fanshawe 8-48 (18%), M Channon 7-10 (12%), N Williamson 9-25 (22%).

FAVOURITES: 2.10 Esperto 2.15 Sadler's 2.15 Polly Golightly 2.15 Wild Palm 2.15 Sweet Dreams

BLUNKED: Not Time; Hobart Junction (425), Arzani (voted), 230.

2.30 NOTTINGHAM SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £2,000 added 1m 12/13yds

1 05/30 ARZANI (36) 0.3 Cognac 7.8 ... N Hunter 11 V

2 14/01 MINT OF THE MOON (29) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

3 05/05 DIAMOND CROWN (413) 0.3 M Hunter 9.8 M 10

4 24/03 ESPERTO (10) J Preece 5.8 ... N Day 8

5 16/02 FLYING EAGLE (48) A Sympson 7.8 ... M Galley 10

6 00/05 GLOWING PATH (50) R Hodges 8.8 ... R Biggs 4

7 00/06 HADRON (10) P Bird 9.9 ... T Spokes 3

8 00/06 HADRON (10) P Bird 9.9 ... T Spokes 3

9 00/06 LIGHTS OF HOME (11) M C Johnson 8.5 ... G Cooper 5

10 00/06 WELSH RANGER (67) J Murphy 5.8 ... N Adams 7

11 00/06 BLUE CHEESE (151) J Jenkins 4.9 ... R Price 14

12 00/06 CHARDONNAY (20) R Hodges 4.8 P Murphy 3

13 00/06 HADRON (10) P Bird 9.9 ... T Spokes 3

14 00/06 FORMATION (15) J M Johnson 5.9 ... M Harty 5

15 00/06 RIZZIE (27) D Thorpe 8.2 ... M Bird 9.8

BETTING: 5-1 Esperto, 5-1 Sadler's, 5-1 Polly Golightly, 5-1 Wild Palm, 5-1 Sweet Dreams

BLUNKED: 5-2 Esperto, 5-1 Sadler's, 5-1 Polly Golightly, 5-1 Wild Palm, 5-1 Sweet Dreams

3.00 WOODTHORPE AUCTION STAKES (CLASS E) £2,000 added 2YO 6f

1 01/06 ABLE PTE (2) J Dunlop 9.0 ... T Spokes 4

2 01/06 DANDY DANCER (5) 0.3 Cognac 7.5 ... T Spokes 4

3 01/06 DERRING BRIDGE (10) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

4 01/06 DERRING BRIDGE (10) 0.3 A Steiner 9.8 E

5 01/06 NOW WE KNOW (1) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

6 01/06 PEGGY GOOLY (1) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

7 01/06 BULLSEYE (17) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

8 01/06 BULLSEYE (17) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

9 01/06 GOLDEN CHARM (11) J Barres 8.8 ... M Harty 5

10 01/06 KINGFISHERS BONNET (21) 0.3 H Jenkins 3.5

11 01/06 MATCH PONY (17) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

12 01/06 PEGGY GOOLY (1) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

13 01/06 RIBBLE (1) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

14 01/06 VEGA NEUTRAL (1) P Spokes 8.8 ... M Harty 5

15 01/06 WINDY (1) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

BETTING: 5-1 Esperto, 5-1 Sadler's, 5-1 Polly Golightly, 5-1 Wild Palm, 5-1 Sweet Dreams

BLUNKED: 5-2 Esperto, 5-1 Sadler's, 5-1 Polly Golightly, 5-1 Wild Palm, 5-1 Sweet Dreams

3.35 BULWELL HANDICAP (CLASS E) £3,000 added 5f

1 10/00 BEAU VENTURE (5) P Bell 10.0 ... T Spokes 4

2 20/00 PLEASURE TIME (20) C Smith 9.5 ... C Smith 3

3 24/00 POLLY GOLIGHTLY (20) P Bell 10.0 ... G Duffield 2

4 05/00 IMPERIAL HONEY (1) M's Sankara 9.9 3f Doffell 17

BETTING: 5-1 Esperto, 5-1 Sadler's, 5-1 Polly Golightly, 5-1 Wild Palm, 5-1 Sweet Dreams

BLUNKED: 5-2 Esperto, 5-1 Sadler's, 5-1 Polly Golightly, 5-1 Wild Palm, 5-1 Sweet Dreams

6.00 TONY METHERELL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 3m 3f

1 17/11 GALATASARAY (36) P Hobbs 8.1 2nd ...

2 14/02 DERRING BRIDGE (10) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

3 01/02 TUTU (36) P Hobbs 8.1 2nd ... A Steiner 8.8

4 01/02 NOW WE KNOW (1) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

5 20/01 BULLSEYE (17) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

6 20/01 BULLSEYE (17) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

7 20/01 RIBBLE (1) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

8 20/01 WINDY (1) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

9 20/01 VEGA NEUTRAL (1) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

10 20/01 WINDY (1) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

BETTING: 5-1 Esperto, 5-1 Sadler's, 5-1 Polly Golightly, 5-1 Wild Palm, 5-1 Sweet Dreams

BLUNKED: 5-2 Esperto, 5-1 Sadler's, 5-1 Polly Golightly, 5-1 Wild Palm, 5-1 Sweet Dreams

6.30 SCALES OF JUSTICE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 2m 11yds

1 02/06 ASHFIELD BOY (20) P Hobbs 7.0 10 ... T Spokes 4

2 02/06 DERRING BRIDGE (10) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

3 02/06 BULLSEYE (17) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

4 02/06 PEGGY GOOLY (1) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

5 02/06 RIBBLE (1) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

6 02/06 COMM'N PONY (17) M's C Hedges 8.8 ... T Spokes 4

7 02/06 EMMA'S VISION (19) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

8 02/06 GOLDFINGER (20) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

9 02/06 GOLDFINGER (20) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

10 02/06 GOLDFINGER (20) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

BETTING: 5-1 Esperto, 5-1 Sadler's, 5-1 Polly Golightly, 5-1 Wild Palm, 5-1 Sweet Dreams

BLUNKED: 5-2 Esperto, 5-1 Sadler's, 5-1 Polly Golightly, 5-1 Wild Palm, 5-1 Sweet Dreams

7.00 QUILTER MARES NOVICE SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,000 2m 11yds

1 02/10 MESS ONDER (27) B M'Ferris 8.1 2nd ...

2 02/10 BULLSEYE (17) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

3 02/10 ACHIL RANGER (10) D Nicholson 5.10 ... J Johnson

4 02/10 AVONCLIFF (19) J King 5.10 ... M'Ferris 5.10

5 02/10 BULLSEYE (17) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

6 02/10 COMM'N PONY (17) M's C Hedges 8.8 ... T Spokes 4

7 02/10 GOLDFINGER (20) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

8 02/10 GOLDFINGER (20) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

9 02/10 GOLDFINGER (20) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

10 02/10 GOLDFINGER (20) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

BETTING: 5-1 Esperto, 5-1 Sadler's, 5-1 Polly Golightly, 5-1 Wild Palm, 5-1 Sweet Dreams

BLUNKED: 5-2 Esperto, 5-1 Sadler's, 5-1 Polly Golightly, 5-1 Wild Palm, 5-1 Sweet Dreams

6.00 TONY METHERELL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 3m 3f

1 17/11 TURKISH JANE (36) P Hobbs 8.1 2nd ...

2 14/02 DERRING BRIDGE (10) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

3 01/02 NOW WE KNOW (1) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

4 01/02 BULLSEYE (17) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

5 01/02 RIBBLE (1) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

6 01/02 VEGA NEUTRAL (1) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

7 01/02 WINDY (1) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

8 01/02 VEGA NEUTRAL (1) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

9 01/02 VEGA NEUTRAL (1) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

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BETTING: 5-1 Esperto, 5-1 Sadler's, 5-1 Polly Golightly, 5-1 Wild Palm, 5-1 Sweet Dreams

BLUNKED: 5-2 Esperto, 5-1 Sadler's, 5-1 Polly Golightly, 5-1 Wild Palm, 5-1 Sweet Dreams

6.40 MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (CLASS E) £5,000 2m 5f

1 05/00 BIRDMAN (2) M'Ferris 8.8 ... T Spokes 4

2 05/00 CANTER (2) M'Ferris 8.8 ... T Spokes 4

3 05/00 DANCING MISTRESS (11) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

4 05/00 DANCING MISTRESS (11) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

5 05/00 DANCING MISTRESS (11) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

6 05/00 DANCING MISTRESS (11) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

7 05/00 DANCING MISTRESS (11) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

8 05/00 DANCING MISTRESS (11) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

9 05/00 DANCING MISTRESS (11) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

10 05/00 DANCING MISTRESS (11) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

11 05/00 DANCING MISTRESS (11) 0.3 1st Stakes 15

Rose recovers with professional approach

Golf

By Andy Farrell
at The Oxfordshire

SOME tournaments hand out jackets to their winners - the US Masters' green one being only the most famous example - but if the Benson and Hedges International were to offer a sartorial prize, as well as its gold cup, a woolly hat would be the best bet.

Its regular spot in the calendar during the 1990s as the first British event of the year has led to boom for manufacturers of warm clothing. With that in mind, the thunderstorms which threatened Thame all morning, at least meant the temperature was a good 20 degrees higher than is usually the case for this tournament at The Oxfordshire.

But with lightning in the area, play was delayed for six and a quarter hours. Justin Rose had awoke shortly after 5am and was at the course in plenty of time for what was originally a 7.15 tee time.

The 17-year-old amateur is touted as the next great British golfer and after a nervy start when play finally got under way - he was four over after five holes - Rose recovered to finished with a 72. His level par score left him four behind Italy's Massimo Florioli and three adrift of a group, which included his playing partner, Brian Davis.

Even experienced professionals find it difficult to find their best form after a frustrating delay and following the way he had hit the ball on the practice



Lee Westwood tees off at the 12th hole during the first round of the Benson and Hedges International Open at The Oxfordshire yesterday

Photograph: Tony Marshall/Empics

range, Ian Woosnam was delighted to score a 71.

Rose, from Hampshire but South African born, hit his approach flat at the first and finished with a 72. His level par score left him four behind

Italy's Massimo Florioli and three adrift of a group, which included his playing partner, Brian Davis.

at the par-three fifth, one of the longer short holes at 208 yards, Rose's two-iron bounced back off the bank into the water. The mistake cost him a double-bogey.

The Oxfordshire course was playing every foot of its 7,205 af-

ter not just the morning rain but

the many April deluges. Technically, Rose, the youngest player to appear in the Walker Cup when he represented Great Britain and Ireland last August, can handle such a challenge.

What was more important to the experienced Paul Eales, the third member of his group, was

the temperament he displayed. "As a pro, his most impressive quality was his attitude," Eales said. "He showed a lot of

guts and patience to fight back

the way he did." Birdies followed at each of his three remaining par-fives and he finished with back-to-back birdies by hitting a six-iron to a foot at the 445-yard uphill last hole.

"It was a nice way to last.

I really enjoyed the last 12 holes," Rose said. "I was edgy at the start and made a couple of silly mistakes, but I moved the ball forward in my stance slightly and felt more comfortable."

In order to accept the invitation from the sponsors for this event, his third on the European Tour, Rose had to pull out of the Brabazon Trophy, a major event on the amateur circuit which starts at Formby today. "It was a difficult decision but this week has been a great experience already. It was an opportunity I couldn't really miss," he said.

His playing partners for a practice round on Tuesday were Lee Westwood and Darren Clarke, while he was in Jose Maria Olazabal's group in Wednesday's pro-am. Rose shot a 68 to Olazabal's 72.

Yesterday, the Spaniard was again round in level par, while Lee Westwood was one better. Westwood's form has not yet sparked in Europe the way it did in America, where he won the New Orleans Classic, and he missed a number of chances with his putter.

"I am not striking my driver quite as well and I have lost a bit of touch on the greens," he said.

Colin Montgomerie teed off at 6.20pm and was unable to finish his round.

Irish Johnson had a 73 in the first round of the women's major, the McDonald's LPGA Championship, in Delaware, yesterday. Johnson knows she needs to show some form if she is to make her fifth Solheim Cup appearance at Muirfield Village, Ohio, in September. She has missed four cuts from nine starts in America this year. Sweden's Carin Koch headed the early European challenge on level-par 71.

Atherton ready to take international stage

World Cup tickets on sale

Cricket

By David Llewellyn
at Canterbury

Kent 186

Leicestershire 419-8

IF ANYONE had any doubts about the state of Michael Atherton's game, they must have been emphatically dispelled here yesterday.

The popular perception that the former England captain's career was in terminal decline was dismissed with contempt.

At the end of it all the poor fellow was out for 96, lbw to a trundler, which was less than he deserved. You could out blame him in the slightest for being cautious. Having failed to make the most of a first day when the ball swung, Sussex in reply had slipped to 4 for 4 by the 10th over yesterday, a highly unpromising read. Chapter by chapter Atherton gradually restored himself as someone who

is likely to be one of the chief protagonists for this summer's series against South Africa.

It took him more than five and a half hours to reach the 45th first-class hundred of his career and his 26th for Lancashire. There were just seven fours in the 311 balls he faced.

By then he was well on the way to a fifth-wicket stand of 121 with Mike Watkinson, who added a bit of pizzazz to the Lancashire innings as he cracked a good-looking 87.

Besides, he had a partner at the time, the wicketkeeper Warren Hegg, who himself went on to reach a worthy fifty. It was

mid-wicket boundary in mid-afternoon. If a shadow of criticism could be permitted to pass across the sunshine of Atherton's welcome return to form, it would perhaps be that Lancashire missed out on a fourth batting point by just five runs. Maybe it was because Atherton spent 71 minutes in the 80s and a further half hour in the 90s. But that is just being picky.

Besides, he had a partner at the time, the wicketkeeper Warren Hegg, who himself went on to reach a worthy fifty. It was

absorbing stuff throughout,

watching two contests, that of bat against ball and man against himself.

Eventually, some time after tea, the last page was finally turned. In attempting to cut the 404th ball of his innings Atherton succeeded only in presenting Carl Hopper at slip with a catch off Matthew Fleming. The book closed with Atherton having passed the 150 mark for the ninth time in his distinguished career, and he had helped Lancashire's - and his own - cause no end.

"It was a nice way to last.

I really enjoyed the last 12 holes," Rose said. "I was edgy at the start and made a couple of silly mistakes, but I moved the ball forward in my stance slightly and felt more comfortable."

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may prove the foundation for a Sussex win after their brightest young bowler, 23-year-old James Kirtley, had reduced the home side to 11 for 3 last night.

In the context of Atherton's

perceived situation of having to fight with the pack to ensure his place in the Test side, then it was a fascinating read. Chapter by chapter Atherton gradually restored himself as someone who

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Bergkamp has Wembley in his sights

Football

By Glenn Moore
Football Correspondent

DENNIS BERGKAMP will wake up in Arsenal's London hotel tomorrow morning, carefully get out of bed and gingerly stretch his limbs. In that moment he will know if he is to play in tomorrow's 117th FA Cup final.

The Dutch striker is more optimistic about his fitness than at any time since he damaged his hamstring against Derby 16

days ago. However, his chances of playing against Newcastle United remain in the balance.

After joining in a full training session for the first time yesterday he said: "I'm happy that I'm still in with a chance, but I'm still thinking about the injury when I train. I will push it harder tomorrow and I will know as soon as I stand on Saturday morning whether I am fit. I want to play but I have to be 100 per cent fit."

Patrick Vieira, the Arsenal manager, said: "I am surprised he has recovered this much

but a practice match is not a cup final. We can't recreate that intensity 48 hours before the game so, if he plays, it will still be a gamble. Fortunately the injury is superficial not deep."

"I'm encouraged that he wants to play. He is thinking only of Arsenal and not of the possibility of injuring himself for the World Cup."

"I will make the decision, but I know he is not the sort of player to cheat and tell me he is fit when he is not. He will have to be comfortable with his body and he will be honest with me."

He knows how important this game is for Arsenal."

Wenger then underlined the importance of Bergkamp, who made a brief appearance in west London to receive his Football Writers' Player of the Year award last night. "He is a leader on the field. He is easy to find in the game for defenders and midfielders. He gives them an option when they have the ball and that improves the confidence of the team. He is creative with his passing and can score goals. But he is like everybody. He may be a huge

player but, if he is not fit, he cannot play."

Arsenal have no other injury worries, although Ian Wright is still short of match fitness and, said Wenger, "he might not last the whole game". This means Wenger is unlikely to take the risk of starting with both Wright and Bergkamp. Wright could be a substitute, but Bergkamp will either start or watch.

Newcastle appear to be injury-free, though little news was emerging from their training camp. Of the two, Arsenal's build-up appears more re-

laxed. Yesterday they sat in the Hertfordshire sunshine after training and took turns to meet the press. Tony Adams was expansive; Martin Keown thoughtful; Patrick Vieira a mixture of intensity and smiles; Emmanuel Petit dressed all in white like a latter-day Jean Borostra, confident and plegmatic.

Petit, now recovered from Don Hutchison's crude tackle 12 days ago, said he believed coming to England had cost him a place in the World Cup but it was still worth it. This sur-

prising assertion was given weight by his evident enjoyment of the ambience and much else to do with the England game.

Petit, like Vieira and Nicolas Anelka, is in Aimé Jacquet's preliminary 28-man squad, but he said: "He [Jacquet] thinks players are much better if they are playing in Italy so it will be very difficult for me, Patrick and Nicolas. He has his team, his players. I don't think he's even been here to see us, though his assistant has."

"He thinks the best players

in the world are in Italy. There are so many great players there but, for me, it's not so good because it's so boring. When I'm watching it I have to reach for the remote control and turn over. I could have gone to Italy but I prefer England. The football here is like life. I can be me. It is a joy to play and never boring."

"If I don't make the World Cup I will still be France's biggest supporter but I will be on the beach, with my friends and some wine."

1992 revisited, page 28

Liebenberg starts with a flourish

Cricket

By Derek Pringle
in Worcester

South Africa 287-4dec
v Worcestershire 31-1

THE OMENS were looking good for England, after South Africa ended their opening day of the tour 287 for 4 declared. Normally visiting teams come to Worcester, acknowledge the impressive 11th Century cathedral, perhaps partake of the sumptuous teas, and get roundly thrashed. They then manage, as Australia did last season, to go on and turn the tables against the national side and win the Test series by about the third or fourth Test.

As first outings go, South Africa will have every right to be pleased with themselves as three of the top four passed fifty. The classiest offering, by some distance, came from Daryll Cullinan, who ended unbeaten on 67, though both Jacques Kallis, with 75, and Gerhardus Liebenberg (98) made up for points lost to style with a steady determination during a tricky first session.

Following a hectic winter over which 11 Tests and 22 one-day matches were played, South Africa have left themselves just five playing days before their first international. With Shaun Pollock nursing a slight abdominal strain and Brian McMillan rested, it was probably not quite the Test side England will face at Edgbaston on 4 June, but it was close.

A few matches may yet seem long to acclimatise, but with Worcestershire's bowlers straying a yard too short on a misty morning ideal for bowling, the batsmen probably feel at home already. Indeed had the South African captain, Hansie Croome, not been seeking the chance of two innings

for his batsmen, he would surely not have resisted the temptation to bowl first after winning the toss.

Perversely, things began well for the home side when the evergreen Phil Newport, swinging the new ball, had Gary Kirsten caught at bat pad by Matthew Rawnsley for one. Instead of running through their opponents as they do most years, the home side had to wait almost four hours for their next success, when Kallis was bowled driving past a good line from Almanzor Sherryar that came back sharply off the seam.

Kallis settled quicker than his partner Liebenberg, who had a partner where most of his scoring strokes ended up at third man.

At 26, Liebenberg is, along with Kirsten, the Test opener in residence, playing in both Tests against Sri Lanka during April. A tall, cautious player, Liebenberg's demise, two runs short of his century, probably surprised him much as anyone else after he top-edged a slog off Graeme Hick, deputising for the injured captain, Tom Moody.

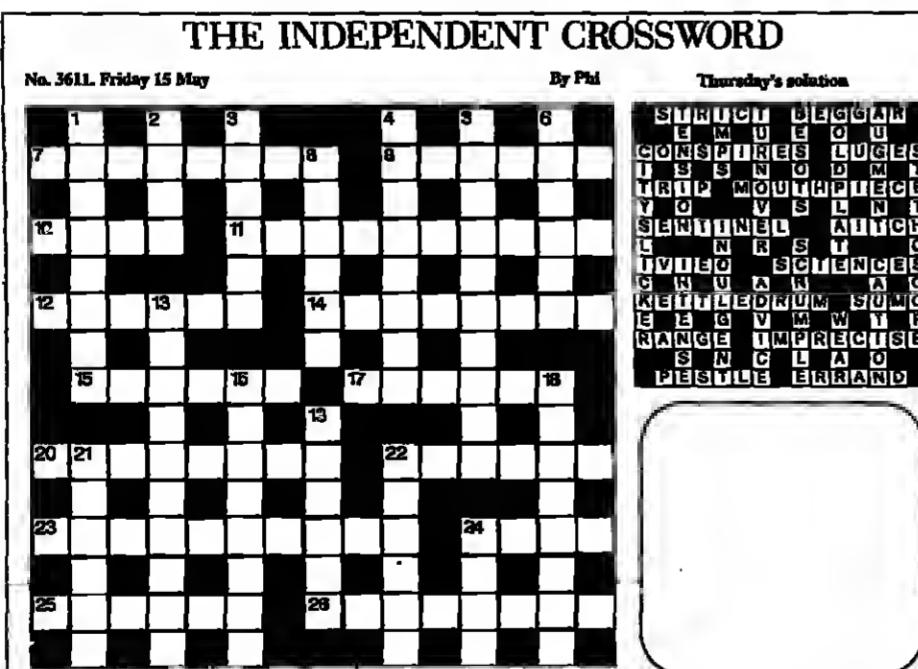
The catcher was Rawnsley who, deputising for the injured Richard Illingworth, had a hand in three of the four dismissals. Rawnsley was also primarily responsible – though Cullinan's change of mind did not help – for running out Croome. Unfortunately it had little to do with his bowling which Cullinan, in particular, clouted to all parts of New Road, including a thumping flat six over long-off.

Set a tricky 40 minutes to bat, Worcestershire quickly lost Vizram Solanki, caught on the crease by the slippery-paged Lance Klusener. At the other end Alan Donald bristled but did not strike and Hick took a brace of fours off the fast bowler that even Graham Gooch, watching here as a selector, would have been proud of.

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South Africa increase their total in the shadow of Worcester cathedral

Photograph: David Ashdown



ACROSS
7 Police officer taking on austere area (3)
9 King to take refuge in a fake, religious establishment (6)
10 Composer's live recital's opening – good (4)
11 Supplies plough that's immobile (10)
12 Doctor on boat? Capital (6)
14 Greek and American followed by Scot (8)
15 British farming concern has local office (6)
17 Stade open wide, having yard covered (6)
20 Ancient jugs in a hamper served up with love (8)
22 Humming tops in spinning may easily lurch list and yaw (6)

23 Columnist making you glance, startled, round front of newspaper (5,5)
24 Stupid craze receding with time (4)
25 Cusp in queue, without question, full of information (6)
26 See game around Northern Scottish location (4,4)
DOWN
1 One eventually goes off damaging property in the local area (4-4)
2 Men-only phase should be curtailed (4)
3 Bob spotted a puzzle (6)
4 TV programme – see host walk unsteadily (4-4)
5 Knowing about alterations to the ion interference? (5,5)

Banks floats idea of football regulator

Sports politics

THE sports minister, Tony Banks, yesterday floated the idea of a new football regulator to guard fans from exploitation by clubs. He told a committee of MPs that football was not like other products, in that fans could not switch clubs in search of lower prices.

Fresh from celebrating Chelsea's European Cup-Winners' Cup victory in Stockholm, Banks told the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee he had just paid £1,250 for a season ticket to Stamford Bridge next season.

It was, he said, a lot of money. Put to him that a ticket for Watford would cost less, he said he would still support Chelsea, even if he had won the election he fought unsuccessfully in 1979 to become Watford MP.

"Football isn't just another product," he said. "You can't just say it's like a car or a refrigerator where you just switch brands. You can't do that with football, so football has a responsibility."

Asked what could be done to ensure fans got value for money in terms of ticket prices, merchandising and broadcast-

ing of matches, he said: "There are ways this could be done.

"If we recognise football is not like any normal product, because it isn't just something we can switch in and out of, we could introduce a regulator. It's not government policy but it's a gross exploitation."

"We interfere in the market for public utilities, because we recognise their role in the economy is different from other products. You can't survive without electricity and water so you can't let free market forces rip in this area. I suspect you could survive without football though some people would question that."

Banks said the football Task Force would also be considering the question of ticket prices and merchandising.

"It will be a very difficult area, but the mere fact that we can't solve all the problems to everyone's satisfaction isn't an excuse for not looking at the problems. I feel that we as politicians can assist the organisers of sports to recognise there is a long-term interest."

He referred to allegations that two Newcastle United directors had boasted of replica kits costing the club £5 that

could be sold to fans for £50.

Banks said: "If that sort of level of exploitation is taking place, I think politicians, whether we like it or not, will be forced to intervene, because that's gross exploitation."

"We owe it to the people we represent to at least make sure they are not exploited in such an appalling way."

After the hearing, Banks stressed to reporters that, on the issue of the regulator, he had been expressing just a personal opinion in reply to an MP's question, and he conceded there could be practical problems with the idea.

The sports minister also said he would like a return of the annual England-Scotland home internationals, which stopped largely because of hooliganism.

"Now we have so improved our stadiums and safety regimes in this country and Scotland, I think the time is now right for the oldest international fixture in the world to be restored."

Banks also said he thought 2012 might be an appropriate year for London to host the Olympic Games, although he said bidding would be a decision for the British Olympic Committee.

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